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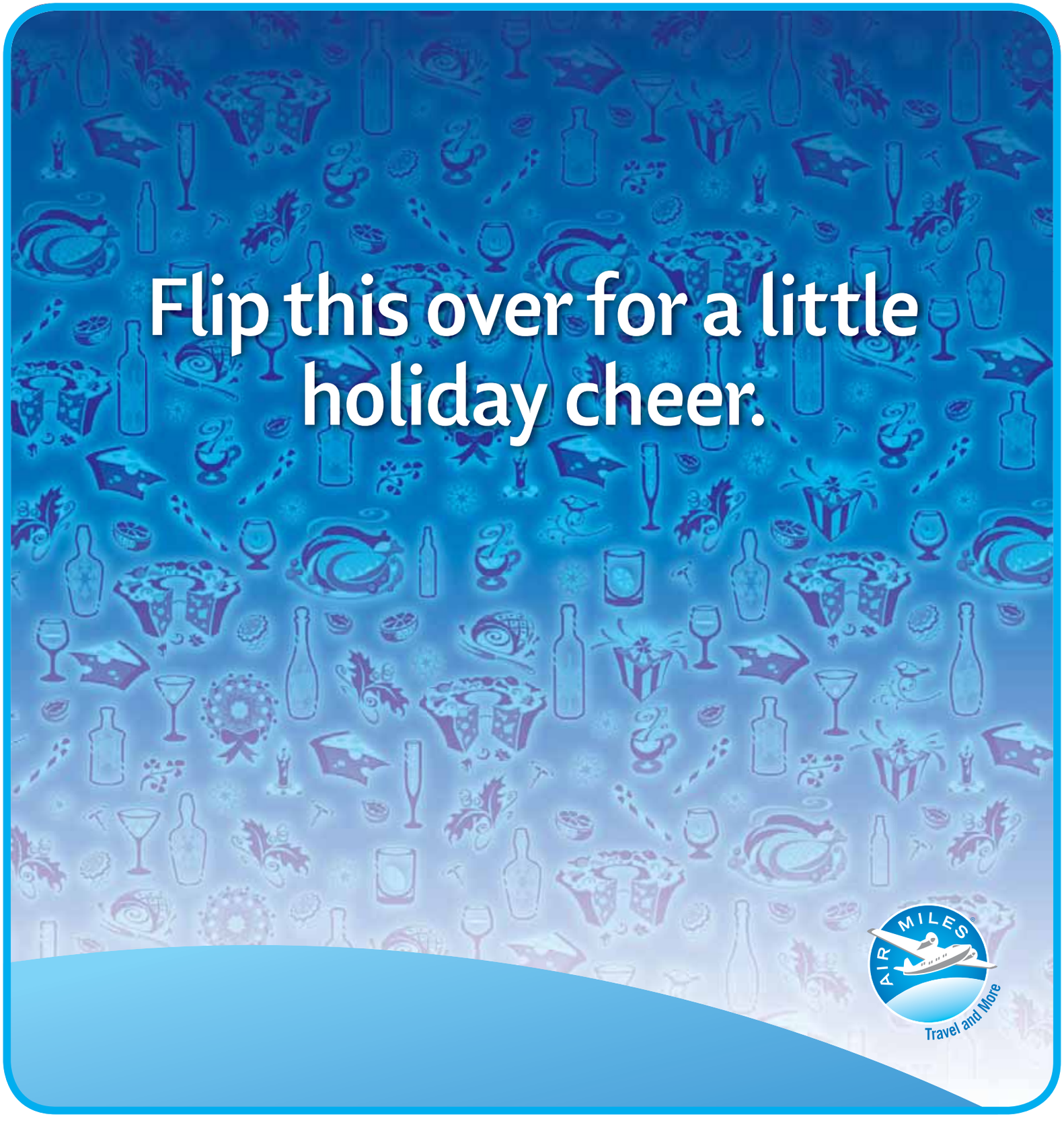

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RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH CHEESE FONDUE
FOOD {page 34}

STALE DRESSING
DO KIM'S OUTFITS FALL FLAT? {page 27}

OTTAWA metro®
Thursday, December 22, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Roads a freezing slick mess

- Ottawa breaks out umbrellas, road salt as rain meets colder temperatures
- Environment Canada forecast calls for snow early Thursday followed by rain

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

Cars were skidding all over the roads, and police were called to more than 70 collisions when freezing rain fell in Ottawa on Wednesday afternoon.

Between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., the Ottawa Paramedic Service responded to 18 calls about car crashes and 20 calls about pedestrians falling on icy sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.

There were no serious injuries reported in any of the collisions or falls, paramedics said in a news release at 5:30 p.m.

However, a multi-vehicle collision on Greenbank Road between West Hunt Club and Fallowfield sent two men to hospital with minor injuries.

Public school-bus service was cancelled in Ottawa, but schools remained opened.

Environment Canada issued a freezing-rain warning on Wednesday afternoon and forecast the precipitation would turn into snow after midnight. Regular rain is forecast for Thursday afternoon.

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

▶ Lights reflect off icy, wet streets Wednesday night.

Local

Family celebrates a life

- Man killed in plane crash remembered as a 'gentleman'
- Wife speaks of his love for freedom {page 3}

Holiday decor tips

A few ways to get creative with things you have around the house {page 30}

Bieber vs. Bublé

The Canadian crooners square off for Decemeber dominance {page 20}

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The *Awakening* Of *Josh.*

It wasn't as if he hadn't prepared properly. He'd left subtle and not-so-subtle hints about what he wanted everywhere he could think of. Letters (hand-written, no less) and emails to Santa. Pictures torn from catalogues and store flyers began showing up on the fridge and throughout the house. Text messages to friends and relatives, all extolling the virtues of the gift he expected under the tree on Christmas morning. He even told his sister who usually looked at him as if he had two heads or something. He left no stone unturned. No possibility unexplored.

And now it was Christmas Eve. A perfect Christmas Eve. The snow falling gently. The moon full and bright, creating sparkles that danced across the snow. Josh was snuggled in his bed and he was determined to stay awake all night. He'd hear the jolly man in the red suit come down the 'chimbley'. He'd hear the reindeer pawing and snorting on the roof. He'd see the silhouette of the sleigh crossing the moon. He'd….he'd…he fell asleep.

The light was just beginning to creep over his windowsill when he awoke. And at the precise moment he opened his eyes, something strange happened.

The first thing he thought about wasn't the present he expected, nor the great afternoon he'd spend with his friends at the neighbourhood skating rink, not even the tummy stuffing turkey dinner with his family. No. The very first thing he thought about was something that he had never, ever really thought about before, but he felt very glad once he had thought it.

His first thought was; "I hope every single kid in the world feels as good as I do right now. At home. At peace."

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

To One And All.

MATTAMY homes

MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

▶ William Barry Stratton's widow Anna-Maria cries after her husband's funeral at Rideau Park United Church on Wednesday.

Life of true 'gentleman' celebrated

More than 100 people gather to remember local dentist killed last week in private plane crash in Barrhaven ◐ Rockcliffe Flying Club Scholarship Fund renamed in memory of pilots

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

The thing Anna-Maria Stratton will remember most about her late husband, William Barry Stratton, killed in a plane crash in Barrhaven on Dec. 14, is his love of freedom.

"Him soaring up there with me, together, when we were up there flying," said Anna-Maria, her voice quavering after her husband's funeral at the Rideau Park United Church, Wednesday. "We saw the beauty in front of us; there was nothing like that."

She met William, known as Barry by family and friends, in Ottawa 18 years ago. They married eight years ago in her native Germany. They shared a love of music, nature, art and architecture, and raised his son Robert Blair and daughter Natalie Lauren.

The last time the couple spoke, Barry was in the Bahamas — a "paradise" the couple had visited and cherished. Barry phoned her one day, but was cut off by a bad connection.

The next day he sent her an email — his last words to her,

"Everything is good here. Please don't worry about me," read Anna-Maria from the email to the congregation. "Ill always love you ... Goodbye, my love."

Barry and his co-pilot Jacques Domey, 63, were killed when their Cessna 177 Cardinal plane crashed into a foggy Barrhaven field on a flight back to Ottawa. An investigation continues to determine the cause of the crash.

Wednesday's service was a celebration of his life, shared through words of remembrance by his sister

"Freedom was the most important thing in life and I think he demonstrated that."
LUCIE MORIN

Paula Saunders, his daughter Natalie Lauren and Anna-Maria.

Natalie Lauren held back tears as she shared her fondest memories of her father — a man who she said was fluent in German and a marvelous trumpet player, and who had learned how to snowboard in his 50s.

"However, his greatest accomplishment was seducing a woman 13 years younger than him who barely spoke English at the time, and somehow convincing her to leave her life in Germany and move to Canada," she said, bringing laughter to the large crowd.

Lucie Morin, a colleague of Anna-Maria, said the service was very personal and touching. She described Barry simply as "a gentleman" who had offered to help his wife at events at Henry Munro Middle School where she teaches.

1 news

Tech-savvy Canadian kids fuel a pre-Christmas spike in Is Santa Real? Google searches.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Thousands of North Koreans mourn Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang while defectors send leaflets via balloon. Slide shows at metronews.ca/inpictures

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Auto workers out to take you for a ride

CAW donates $5K in taxi chits to Ottawa police to stop drunk driving

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

Usually the best outcome a driver can get at a R.I.D.E. check is to be told to carry on and have a good night. But sober motorists stopped in Ottawa before Christmas will also drive away with a $10 taxi coupon.

The Canadian Auto Workers, Local 1688, donated $5,000 worth of taxi chits to the Ottawa Police Service to help eliminate drinking and driving, local president Amrik Singh said.

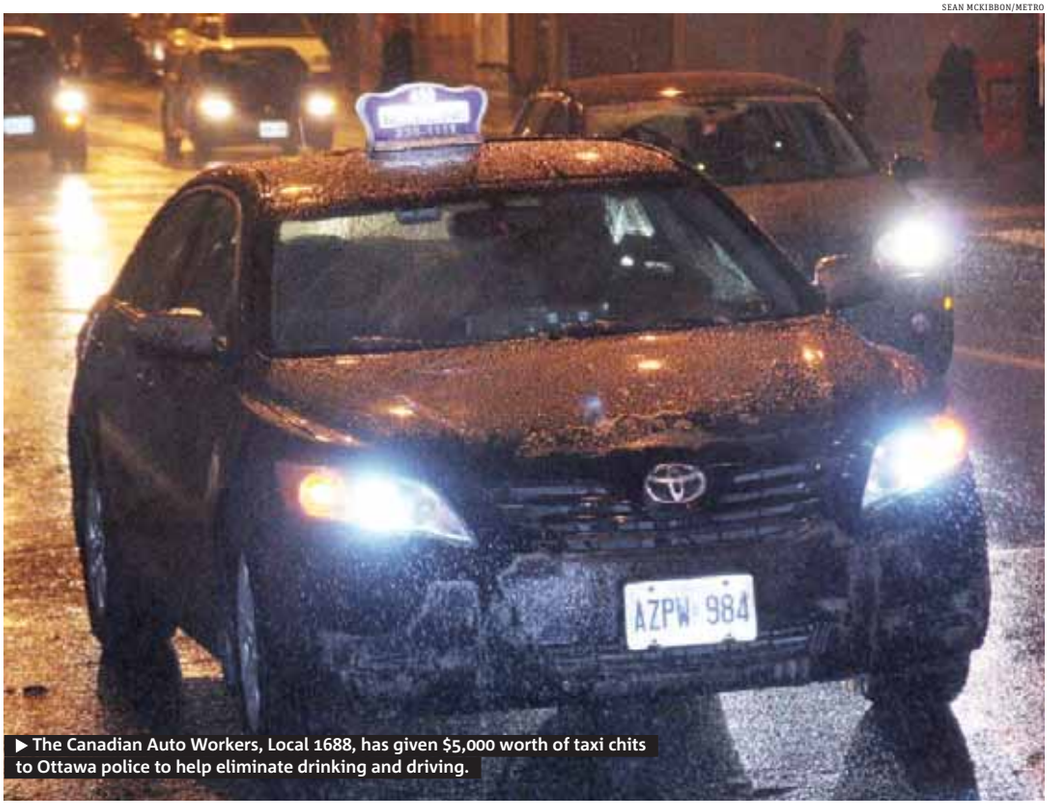
Police haven't finished tallying how many people they have caught at R.I.D.E. checks this year. "Anecdotally, the numbers seem to be down," Sgt. John Kiss said. "Thankfully, we haven't had anything serious involving drinking and driving this year."

So far this month in Gatineau, 23 people have been charged with driving while intoxicated — three for refusal to provide a sample and four for driving under the influence of drugs. That number is fairly typical for the holiday season, spokesperson Pierre Lanthier said.

The toll so far

- **Ottawa police have** conducted eight R.I.D.E. checks so far, but have not yet collected statistics on how many people have been caught.
- **OPS says it's planning "a** lot more" checks before the end of the year.
- **In seven R.I.D.E.-style** roadblocks organized by Gatineau police, only one impaired driver was caught.
- **The other 22 people** Gatineau police have charged with impaired driving this month were in crashes or were pulled over by police.

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO



▶ The Canadian Auto Workers, Local 1688, has given $5,000 worth of taxi chits to Ottawa police to help eliminate drinking and driving.

Youth face down drunk driving with social media

While local police operate holiday-season roadblocks, young people are joining a Facebook page and making a promise never to drive drunk.

Tony's Promise began after Anthony McColl was killed by a suspected drunk driver last spring. The promise is on a Facebook page whose 1,174 members (and counting) pledge to "never allow a friend to drive under the influence."

Tony was sober and driving four of his sister's friends home from a party on the night he was killed. Earlier, he had given his sister, Alanna, money to take more friends home in a taxi, which was just ahead of him on Highway 148 when another car approached.

"It was going very fast, and crashed head-on into my son's car," Tony's father, Dave McColl, said.

The girls in the car were injured but survived and, along with some of Tony's friends, launched Tony's Promise.

As well as the Facebook page and a website, they created a slide show to accompany their talks when they and Tony's father speak at high schools about the dangers of impaired driving.

More than eight months after Tony's death, his friends and family are still in mourning, but Tony's Promise seems to be working, McColl said.

The kids tell him parties are different now and people are being as conscientious as his son was on the night he died.

JESSICA SMITH

CONTRIBUTED

▶ This photo, taken by Dave McColl, shows the wreckage of his son Tony's car after it was struck head-on by a suspected drunk driver.

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Risky pass caused crash

Total of four vehicles involved in fatal crash Occupants of two vehicles not harmed: Police

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

A driver who crossed a double line to pass another vehicle is completely responsible for the head-on crash that killed him and two people in another car, Quebec police said Wednesday.

Shortly after 6 p.m. Tuesday, John Robertson, 51, pulled out of his lane on Highway 148 near Quyon, Que. and slammed into a red Neon, police said.

The driver of the Neon was Kevin Black of Norway Bay, according to residents of the community. He and his four-year-old son, James, were killed.

Two of Black's other children — Megan, 12, and Joel, 13 — were taken to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and are in stable condition.

"Everybody's in shock and pretty sad," said Andy Henderson, owner of Henderson's General Store, in Norway Bay. "Especially with the circumstances, it was such as senseless accident. With the kids, and it's Christmas — it's a very emotional time."

"I hope the two kids are OK and they can get through this with their mother and the rest of the family. We'll pray for them."
ANDY HENDERSON, OWNER OF HENDERSON'S GENERAL STORE, IN NORWAY BAY

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JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa's last green Christmas was in 2006 when this photo, showing a cyclist riding along the Rideau Canal on Christmas Eve, was taken.

Ottawa can dream of a technically white Christmas

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

The rules are precise.

For a true white Christmas, there must be at least two centimetres of snow on the ground by 7 a.m., a time chosen, of course, because it's when kids everywhere run to their windows hoping for snow and signs of a visit from Santa Claus.

"It could be borderline this year," said Weather Network meteorologist Patrick Cool. "In the Ottawa area there's an 80 per cent chance of a white Christmas as you look back over the past 55 years or so."

Environment Canada declares a white or green Christmas at 7 a.m. If it snows later, that's lovely, but it doesn't change the official ruling, said Cool.

What's the chance?

- Ottawa's last green Christmas was in 2006, meteorologist Patrick Cool said.
- Historically, there's a 35 per cent chance Ottawa will have a 'perfect Christmas.'

That may happen in Ottawa this year: the forecast shows an Alberta Clipper system on course to move into the area on Christmas Day, said Cool.

"But it might be too late — it might be past that 7 a.m. threshold."

But what makes for a perfect Christmas?

"That's what Environment Canada calls when you have two centimetres of snow in the morning and it is snowing during the daytime," he said.

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CHARITABLE GIVING

Sally Ann kettles are as light as the traffic in the malls

The Salvation Army is more than $175,000 short in its annual Christmas Kettle campaign and without those funds the charity says programs that support families with emergency food hampers and school supplies.

Salvation Army spokesman Michael Maidment said a contributing factor is the slump in traffic and sales in the region's malls this holiday season.

"If traffic is down for shoppers then that would likely have an impact on our kettle campaign," he said.

"I'm pretty optimistic it's doable but we'll certainly need to call on public to support us," he said.

This year's goal is $600,000, up about $15,000 from last year.

"$175,000 is a large number, but if any community can do it, Ottawa certainly is that community," he said. "Once people understand the need, I expect that they will respond."

There are 48 Christmas kettles scattered throughout stores in Ottawa and the public has until Dec. 24 to make a donation.

Donations can be made to the campaign directly at the Christmas Kettles, online at fillthekettle.com or salvationarmy.ca/ikettle, by phone at 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769) and on a mobile device by texting HOPE to 45678.

JOE LOFARO

The wages of Salvation

Salvation Army workers ready to walk out over pay, union leader says

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

JOE LOFARO/METRO

▶ Salvation Army workers may strike if an agreement on wages isn't reached between management and the union, said Larry Rousseau, centre, regional executive vice-president for the National Capital Region Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Employees at the Salvation Army in Ottawa say they aren't getting a "living wage," and are threatening a strike at any time.

The union said it set up a trailer across the street from the Salvation Army's Booth Centre on George Street to send a message to management that they are prepared to walk out.

Bill Riopelle, president of Public Service Employees Union local 73100, which represents workers at the centre, said the majority of workers have voted in favour of a strike after rejecting a tentative agreement reached in November for about 70 unionized workers.

The workers are in a legal position to strike, the union said. The union's regional executive vice-president, Larry Rousseau, said he wants to close the apparent gap between Booth Centre workers' wages and wages at other area shelters, such as the Shepherds of Good Hope.

Marilyn Sylvester, a Booth Centre worker, said she is struggling to pay her rent with her current wage.

Salvation Army spokesman Michael Maidment, said the union publicly endorsed an increase of 7.5 per cent over three years and a $500 signing bonus last month, but have since changed their minds.

"Given the challenging economic times, we think that is a very fair and equitable offer," said Maidment.

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sears.ca

Tory MP seeks rights for unborn

He deplores 'subhuman' status

A Conservative MP says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children.

Stephen Woodworth's view is seen as an attempt to reopen the debate around abortion laws.

"Canadian law provides no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth," Woodworth said yesterday.

"This means that in Canada a child is legally considered to be subhuman while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing."

The MP from Kitchener, Ont., doesn't explicitly mention the word abortion, but he suggests it is time to "examine" the question of granting human rights protections to unborn children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM's blockade

- Woodworth's views face a bleak future in Parliament.
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed in the last election to stamp out any debate and defeat any private member's bills that might arise from members of his caucus on abortion.

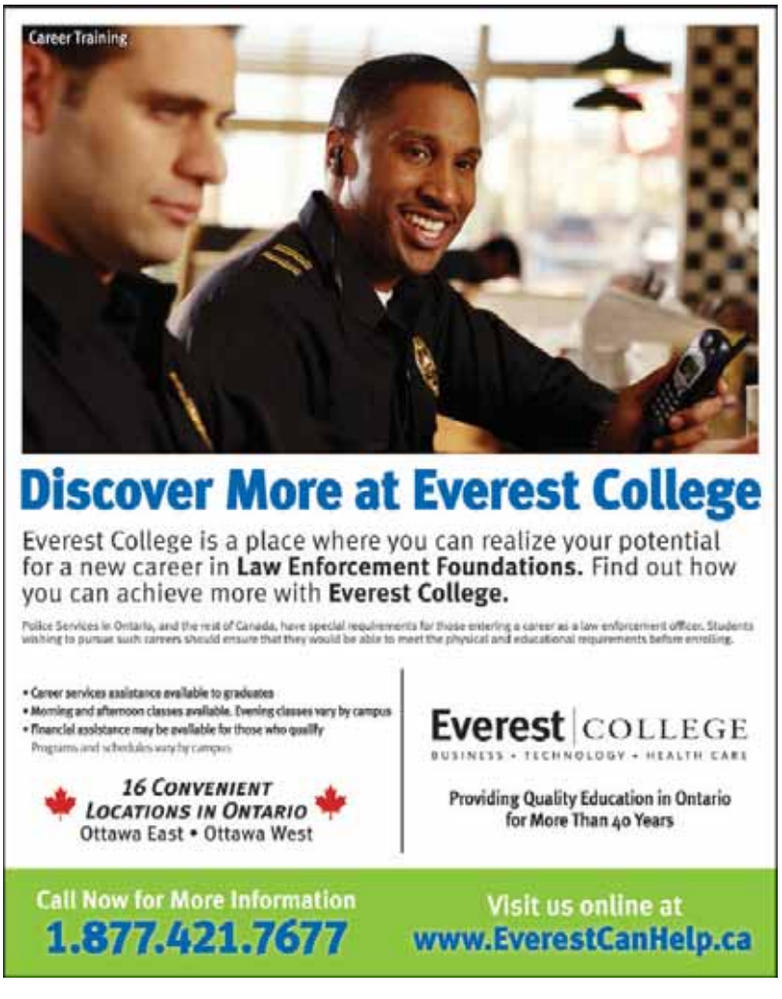
Homecoming. Love sails in

▶ It's great to be home: Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend of two years, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, yesterday. Gaeta's ship returned from 80 days at sea.

BRIAN J. CLARK/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

80-day voyage ends with a kiss

It is a time-honoured tradition at U.S. navy homecomings — one lucky sailor is chosen to be first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss with a loved one. Yesterday in Virginia Beach, Va., for what is believed to be the first time, the happily reunited couple was gay.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Killer doc loses medical licence

Toronto surgeon involved in liposuction death gets 2-year suspension Also faces public rebuke, hefty fine

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar leaves the Ontario College of Physicians in Toronto in this 2009 file photo.

A self-styled cosmetic surgeon who carried on doing a liposuction procedure even though a post-operative patient was dying in a room next door has lost her licence for two years, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario decided Wednesday.

"(Yazdanfar's) lack of knowledge and/or ability, and her faulty judgment ended in tragic consequences," Ontario's medical regulator said in its decision.

"She violated her professional responsibility by treating not just one but many patients in an unsafe manner."

Yazdanfar, a family doctor who moved exclusively into liposuction and breast augmentation in 2003, was found to have violated professional standards last May in regard to numerous patients.

In one case, Krista Stryland, 32, died after Yazdanfar removed more than six litres of fat from over 30 per cent of her body — well above the five-litre maximum standard — which was "frankly dangerous," college documents show.

When Stryland went into shock, Yazdanfar failed to respond properly, the college said. The owner and operator of the Toronto Cosmetic Clinic went to perform another procedure as Stryland lay dying in the recovery room.

"Standing by and failing to call 911 when appropriate in the Krista Stryland case demonstrated that she was not up to the task of caring for this critically ill patient," the college found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

219 **In addition, Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar will have to face a public reprimand, and pay $219,000 in costs.**

DEADLY SILICONE

France may pay to remove exploding breast implants

Emmanuelle Maria's breasts were burning and globules of silicone gel were protruding into her armpits.

Her implants had exploded inside her. Yet her doctors, she says, told her nothing was wrong.

Now, she wants the French government to tell 30,000 women to get their implants removed — at the state's expense — to call attention to their risks and save others from potential pain and indignity.

Prompted by calls from implant wearers and leading doctors, French health authorities are considering a drastic and unprecedented move: recommending mass surgery to rid the country of a type of breast implant that investigators say was secretly made with cheap industrial silicone whose medical dangers remain unclear.

Governments around Europe are hanging on France's decision Friday.

Tens of thousands more women in Britain, Italy, Spain and other European nations are walking around with the same pre-filled implants, made by the now-defunct French company Poly Implant Prothese, or PIP.

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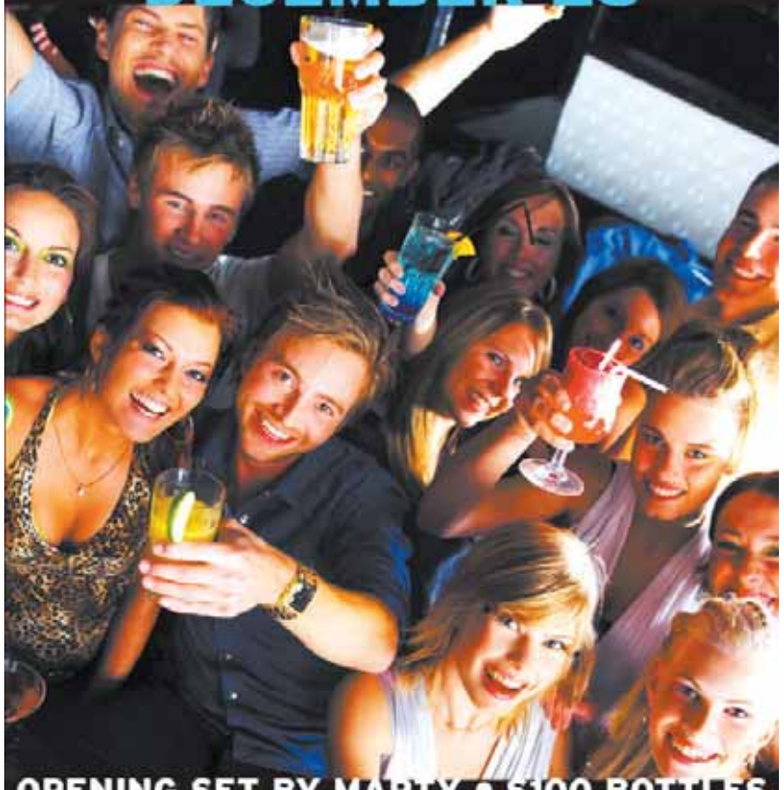
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More to Korean grief

Not all North Koreans are likely to feel genuine remorse Some may even be hoping for change

The scenes of mass grief coming from North Korea — people falling to the ground weeping and cries of anguish amid sombre crowds — look forced.

More than theatrical, the mass mourning over the death of dictator Kim Jong Il is being driven by a mix of forces. Loss and fear of an uncertain future — the same emotions that many feel at the death of a loved one — become contagious in crowds. Added to that are the perils of crossing a police state. Self-interest is at work too, as many North Koreans work for the ruling Workers' Party, the military and state companies and institutions.

Poor and largely isolated from outside information, North Koreans grieve in an atmosphere that is part family mourning, part coercion. "Bad things have happened to North Koreans who refused the cult of personality around Kim Jong Il. Once in the habit of complying with cult norms, it is not easy suddenly to stop," Clark McCauley, a psychology professor at Bryn Mawr College, said in an email. Even victims of persecution, he said, sometimes come to regard the leader as a great man, regardless of their personal suffering.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contagious

- **"Mourning, like laughter,** is contagious in a social network," said Scott Atran, an American anthropologist who studies the psychology of groups at France's National Centre for Scientific Research.
- **"People usually believe** they are slightly exceptional to the norm. But if they want to be part of the group they over-exaggerate and go toward the extreme of what they think the norm is," Atran said.

Syrian troops massacre 100 villagers: Activists

As government troops advanced on a village in northwestern Syria, activists say the terrified residents fled into a valley for fear of being arrested or worse. What happened next, one of the activists said, was "an organized massacre."

The troops surrounded the valley and unleashed a barrage of rockets, tank shells, bombs and gunfire in an hours-long assault, according to two human-rights groups and a witness, killing more than 100 people and leaving no survivors in one of the bloodiest days of a crackdown by President Bashar al-Assad against a nine-month popular uprising.

The White House said it was "deeply disturbed" by Tuesday's attack, France called it a "murderous spiral," and the Arab League reminded the al-Assad regime of its responsibilities to protect its civilians.

The United Nations says more than 5,000 people have died since March as Syria has sought to put down the uprising — part of the Arab Spring of protests that has toppled long-serving unpopular leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Members of Syria's opposition said the bloodshed outside the village of Kfar Owaid, about 30 miles from the northern border with Turkey in Idlib province, was evidence of the authoritarian leader's intent to intensify its crackdown on the uprising before Arab League observers arrive in the country Thursday. The death toll from two days of violence this week topped 200, including up to 70 army defectors killed near the city of Idlib, the activists said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. reaction

- **The Obama administration** reacted to the latest reports by renewing its call for Bashar al-Assad to step down, saying he "does not deserve to rule Syria."
- **"The United States** is deeply disturbed by credible reports that the al-Assad regime continues to indiscriminately kill scores of civilians and army defectors, while destroying homes and shops and arresting protesters without due process," the White House said in a statement.

than meets the eye

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Citizens grieve as they visit a portrait of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on display in the plaza of the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

Burning. The Clocks

▶ People watch fireworks at the end of the Burning The Clocks Festival on Wednesday in Brighton, England.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Winter solstice marked

The annual celebration, enjoyed by thousands of people who carry paper lanterns through the streets of Brighton, culminates on Brighton Beach, where the lanterns are burned and the winter solstice is marked.

Columbus link to syphilis in Europe back in spotlight

A 500-year-old debate in anthropological circles involving whether Christopher Columbus and his crew brought syphilis back to Europe has been re-ignited thanks to a new report published in the Yearbook of Physical Anthropology.

The study's authors, George Armelagos, an anthropologist at Emory University along with Molly Zuckerman, a former student and now assistant professor at Mississippi State University and Kristin Harper, currently a post-doctoral fellow at Columbia University have concluded that there is no adequate evidence to suggest syphilis was prevalent in Europe prior to Columbus' historic voyage in 1492.

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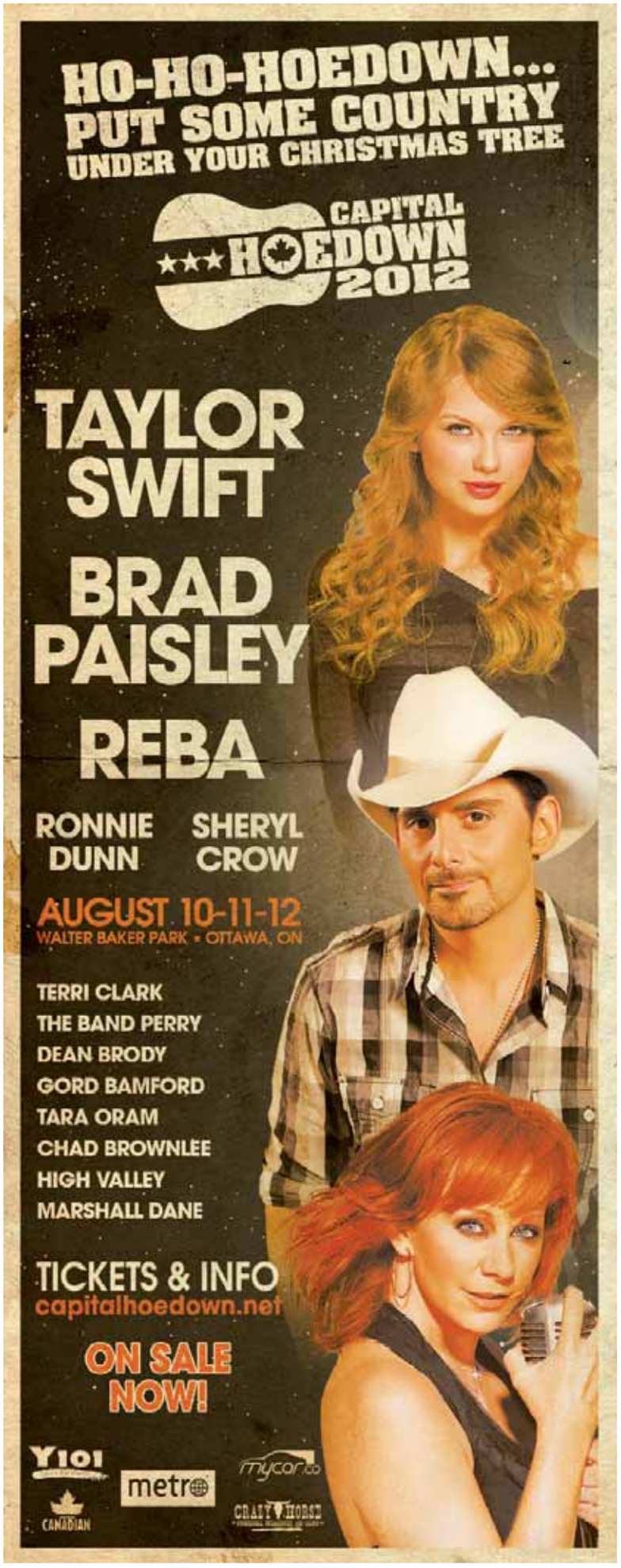

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

▶ Israeli Tomer Majerowicz is escorted into Halifax provincial court by a Border Services agent yesterday. Majerowicz and seven other Israelis pleaded guilty to working illegally in Canada.

Illegal workers must pay $1,000

Eight Israelis pulled from Halifax home plead guilty

JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN HALIFAX

Eight Israeli citizens pleaded guilty yesterday to working illegally in Halifax.

Two more were to appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday morning.

Border Services agents, assisted by police, searched a home in the Halifax area early yesterday morning. Search warrants covering three area malls were also issued.

"They lied to me that it was legal work."
ACCUSED ISRAELI PAZ KFIR, 21, SPEAKING TO THE COURT

The Israelis were said to be working at kiosks selling gel heating pads to Christmas shoppers.

Border agents escorted a number of people in handcuffs out of the Halifax home throughout the day. A few neighbours said they weren't surprised.

"I've been suspicious of that house for a while," said one neighbour.

Albert Price, manager of the criminal investigations division for Canada Border Services Agency, said eight men and two women were arrested for working without authorization or employing foreign nationals.

One woman, Paz Kfir, 21, told court she was offered what she thought at first was legal work.

Kfir, like the seven others who appeared in court yesterday, pleaded guilty and were handed $1,000 fines — which they need to pay by Jan. 27.

Booze bad, pot OK: B.C.ers

A majority of British Columbians believe alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana, a new Angus Reid poll suggests.

In an online survey among 800 B.C. adults, 59 per cent of respondents disagreed that regular marijuana use is more harmful than regular alcohol use.

The poll also found that 54 per cent of B.C. residents do not agree marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug.

And 51 per cent say they don't believe marijuana is a "gateway" drug that can lead to the use of other dangerous drugs.

The survey commissioned by Stop the Violence B.C. — a coalition of academic, legal, law enforcement and health experts trying to legalize marijuana — was conducted from Sept. 7 to 9, 2011.

Jodie Emery, wife of pot activist Marc Emery, said this new information proves public support for legalization is growing.

"The science and the evidence are all there," Emery said.

"You can't deny the truth, and the truth is backed up by evidence and proof."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

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Police tear down Occupy Winnipeg camp

- Protesters had occupied Memorial Park since Oct. 15
- Throughout winter, camp of 30 dwindled to three

SEAN LEDWICH
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

About 30 natural-resource officers and city police officers swooped into the Occupy Winnipeg encampment at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Wednesday to enforce a provincial removal order issued last week.

Police briefly detained three occupiers at the camp while NROs dismantled and loaded a yurt (a small tent-like structure), two tents and all contents onto a trailer. Occupiers were told they could claim their belongings after they were catalogued.

"They sent 30 guys to take care of three peaceful protesters," said Kristaps Balodis, who had been sleeping in the yurt.

"This isn't the end.... This isn't the last you'll see of the camp. That I can say for sure."

Of the three evicted occupiers, Terry Weaymouth was the only one to get a written notice of eviction.

"Occupy Winnipeg is pretty much done, in my opinion, unless we take immediate action to set up somewhere else," Weaymouth told Metro Winnipeg as he surveyed the empty park.

"Personally I'd like to see (a tent) go up tonight, even if it's just one tent, just to defy these f—ers."

Weaymouth said Manitoba Conservation district supervisor Joe Johannesson told him a hay bale fire last week was the final straw for the province.

"He said, 'Well, it's because of the last fire.... Safety is being threatened, so (we've) got to do this.' That's just an excuse."

"I'm disappointed at how disrespectful the police force was. They tore all the tarps. They just ripped it down and took all our stuff. They ripped all the tarps on the yurt, and that all belongs to the Twelve Tribes (community). And they ... (just) destroyed it."
KRISTAPS BALODIS, OCCUPIER

SEAN LEDWICH/METRO WINNIPEG

▶ Terry Weaymouth, standing in front of grassy patches where the camp yurt and his own tent stood until Wednesday morning, holds the enforcement notice he was issued. Unlike past notices, the box for eviction is checked off.

In a written statement on Monday regarding the previous week's removal orders, the province said, "As with past orders, structures that are occupied will be allowed to remain."

In the afternoon Conservation minister Dave Chomiak told media the province decided to remove the camp when they received a report from the fire commissioner on Tuesday calling the camp unsafe.

When asked what the response would be if occupiers were to erect a new tent, Chomiak said, "We'd immediately remove it."

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PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A customer looks at a Research In Motion Blackberry Torch using a AT&T carrier, at a Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif.

Proposed takeovers of RIM dismissed

Analysts grapple over BlackBerry maker's future
Shares up 10 per cent with proposal from Amazon

With more takeover rumours roiling around Research In Motion and lifting its stock price, analysts said Wednesday there's little chance the struggling BlackBerry maker will be acquired in the near future.

"I think from the board's perspective, which tends to be friendly to the co-CEOs, they will want to give them a chance because six months ago this was a $50 stock," William Blair & Co. analyst Anil Doradla said.

Reuters reported Tuesday that Internet retailer Amazon.com recently approached RIM to discuss a takeover, but the Canadian company rejected the move. In the past, Microsoft and Nokia also dabbled in potential offers, but they were also rebuffed by RIM.

$265M RIM's quarterly profits plunged to US$265 million, a drop from $911 million in the same three-month period last year.

Samsung, a growing player in the smartphone market, also has been named as a potential suitor.

"We continue to view near-term mergers and acquisitions for RIM as very unlikely given the company's dismal performance and uncertain outlook," said National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson.

RIM has disappointed investors recently with the delay of its next generation of BlackBerry smartphones until late 2012 and disappointing financial results.

BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long said an acquisition is unlikely due to RIM's business model.

RIM makes the operating system and puts it into its own handset, delivering a complete product. It's also a service provider to its corporate customers with secure, encrypted email.

"RIM is the only hybrid equipment manufacturer and service provider," Long wrote in a note.

Activist shareholder Vic Alboini said the company will either be acquired as is, or broken up and sold.

RIM has been losing marketshare to Apple's iPhone and Android smartphones. It saw its share of the U.S. smartphone market fall to about 10 per cent this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial EU airline carbon charge gets go ahead from court

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ An airplane takes off at Berlin's Tegel airport during snowy and stormy weather last January.

U.S. airlines failed Wednesday to block an EU law charging airlines flying to Europe for their carbon pollution. The decision by an EU court was widely hailed by environmentalists but the Fitch ratings agency said it raised the spectre of a global trade dispute.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg dismissed arguments that imposing the European Union's cap-and-trade carbon-credits program on flights to and from European airports infringes on national sovereignty or violates international aviation treaties. U.S. and other non-European airlines had sued the EU, arguing that they were exempt from the law.

Environmentalists called the law a first step in controlling carbon emissions in a key economic sector. But Fitch Ratings said the decision could deepen rather than quell the dispute, raised in a lawsuit brought by U.S. and Canadian airlines acting through the industry trade organization Airlines for America. The protest was supported by China, India and others with international carriers.

The U.S. airlines said the regulation was tantamount to "an exorbitant tax," but the EU said the added costs would amount to a few dollars per ticket. Fitch added that retaliation could come in the form of slot allocations at airports and authorizing routes, especially in developing countries.

The program, due to go into effect Jan. 1, aims to make airlines accountable for their carbon emissions. Aviation is the fastest-growing source of carbon pollution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

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Economic confidence down, sales up: Reports

A new survey suggests that more than a third of Canadians — including well over half of young people — feel more stressed about their financial situation now than a year ago.

The survey by insurer Sun Life Financial says 36 per cent of respondents are more worried about their personal finances than last year. It comes as the economy slows down and volatile markets, squeezed incomes and recession fears erode consumer and business confidence. Trends have been moving negatively for months as consumers retrench and businesses worry about the economic future. A scaleback in spending is already affecting the Christmas shopping season and could lead to tighter money next year.

Still, Statistics Canada reported that retail sales rose one per cent to $38.6 billion in October, their third straight monthly increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Norway reaches out to partners

Norway says it will provide $9.3 billion US to the International Monetary Fund to help heavily indebted nations avoid default. Norway is not part of the EU and its economy is cushioned by income from its oil and gas exports. Still, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg noted that it's in Norway's interest to help European trading parties "who are now in a difficult economic situation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm not much for Christmas carols.

I enjoy the joking songs, like Santa Baby or The Christmas Shoes, but otherwise the only holiday tune I like is the creepy Carol of the Bells, which brings to mind the warm holiday image of Santa Claus being stabbed repeatedly with a candy cane.

So, in a bid to make myself a better, more Christmassy person, I decided this week to open myself up to some holiday "classics" for the first time in years. And let me say that, upon further review, Christmas songs are bonkers.

There's We Wish You a Merry Christmas, with its special yuletide message of "Bring us some figgy pudding or we will tear you limb from limb."

There's Winter Wonderland, the story of a man planning a fun day that includes building a snowman, pretending it's a priest and talking to it about his marital future. I'm thinking his belle doesn't know this plan yet and that, if she did, she'd have to "hurry on her way," Frosty-style.

"Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow."

Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow. He leaves him there, possibly for dead. I must say it rather improves the song.

The hands-down winner, though, of Craziest Christmas Carol is Do You Hear What I Hear? I assume it was written when absinthe still had kick.

It starts with the wind asking a lamb if it sees a dancing star. In most songs, that would be excitement enough. But there's more: The lamb asks his shepherd, with whom he has a good working relationship, if he hears singing.

You would think the shepherd would then realize he's been putting in too many 12-hour days and should really take that Dead Sea stroll he's been saving for. But instead he runs to the mighty king, who apparently has no security at his mighty castle, and tells the monarch the joyous news: "I found a talking lamb!"

No — of course, he tells him that a child is shivering in the cold. With no women around, the king and shepherd's best plan for getting the baby warm is to bring it silver and gold.

Between the talking animal and the potential case of child neglect, this song is one hell of a wild ride.

So, I'll admit, Christmas carols are more fun than I remembered. They should be sung far and wide by you and your family and your lamb, if you have one.

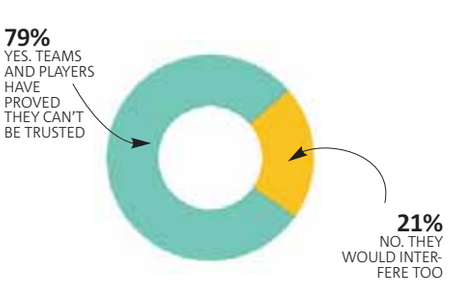
And though it's been said, many times, many ways: Bring me my figgy pudding.

Or else.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should independent doctors monitor concussions in pro sports?



Local tweets

@stephantelka: Something to look forward to in 2012: New @VIA_Rail 4-hr express between Toronto & Ottawa http://bit.ly/uOfNuZ

@BlazerMack: Q: Are property owners responsible for clearing and salting walkways adjacent their property? #Ottawa #NotHappening #311

@snobiwan: If you are outside in Ottawa tonight, walk like you are VERY HIGH. Little steps, hands out, look around and down, stop often.

@jivebaby22: Survived the new #ikea in Ottawa ... not too busy because of the freezing rain.. which was perfect for my slow shopping skills.

@shaybaybayeh: there is now a #skybar in ottawa. guess i know where were going@Britta_Marie and @amandaarees #homesweethome

@SriizzyMentos: Omg Keshia chante is sitting behind me :S

Daily Zoom

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Christmas comes early

Taking treats from a tiger

Sumatran tiger cubs tore apart a wrapped Christmas present at Taronga Zoo on Wednesday in Sydney. Animals received Christmas-themed enrichment foods as part of the zoo's regular program to encourage the animals to forage for food and help improve hunting abilities.

GETTY IMAGES

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Quite the yuletide feast

Barry the Tasmanian devil got a bowl of kangaroo blood with offal and bones while freshly made popcorn was served to the gorillas, who are kept on a low-fat diet. The zoo's seals got blue swimmer crabs and fish snacks delivered in ice from the Sydney Fish Markets, the CBC reported. METRO

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HANDOUT

Ottawa's indie pop-rockers The Love Machine are feeling the love.

Showing Ottawa some Love

Indie pop-rockers The Love Machine throwing the annual holiday party at Greenfield's pub

BACKSTAGE PASS

JEN TRAPLIN
METRO OTTAWA

This holiday season, the guys in pop-rock group The Love Machine have a lot to celebrate.

Years of slugging it out as an independent Ottawa band finally paid off when they beat out 74 other bands and solo artists from the area to win the LiVE 88.5 Big Money Shot band competition last month.

"It was pretty wild," admits bassist/vocalist Jordan David.

"But, I feel like we are in a spot where it made sense for it to happen at this time."

He says the band's busy touring and performing schedule, especially this past year, helped them gain the experience they needed to pull off a win, adding that it feels like they've received some sort of validation in returns.

"We've been a band for almost seven years so it feels really good and I think it's good for our fans too," David explains.

"Those are the people who built us up so it's great to share this with them."

The Love Machine is completely independent which means every band expense is paid for out of their own pockets.

The $50,000 winnings from the Big Money Shot will ensure things like touring support and merchandise are taken care of next year.

"It's a huge boost for us," says David.

"We've put our work in."

After the holidays, The Love Machine will get started on a new EP they are hoping to release in the spring.

But for now, David says they are really looking forward to spending some quality time with friends and family at their holiday bash, an annual tradition for the indie pop-rockers.

"Half of our band is from Barrhaven so every year we throw a party and it's the craziest night of the year," he explains of their show.

"We play our whole catalogue and a few covers. It's just a really good holiday celebration with friends and family."

Details

The Love Machine's Annual Holiday Hometown Party with Amos the Transparent

- **When:** Friday at 9 p.m.
- **Where:** Greenfield's Pub & Eatery (900 Greenbank Rd.)
- **Price:** $10 at the door

What else is going on in the city over the holidays?

Dance off those extra holiday pounds at Babylon this Boxing Day. Mindgames presents the First Annual Disorganized Boxing Day Reunion featuring Jokers of the Scene with Gregular, Sir Ett and I8A4RE.

- **When:** Monday (Boxing Day) starting at 10 p.m.
- **Where:** Babylon Nightclub (317 Bank St.)
- **Price:** $8 before midnight

2 scene

Split

Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard have separated after nearly 30 years together. A publicist for Lange confirmed the split Monday. People magazine first reported the separation, saying the actors concluded their relationship almost two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CBS has year's biggest margin of victory in prime time ratings

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

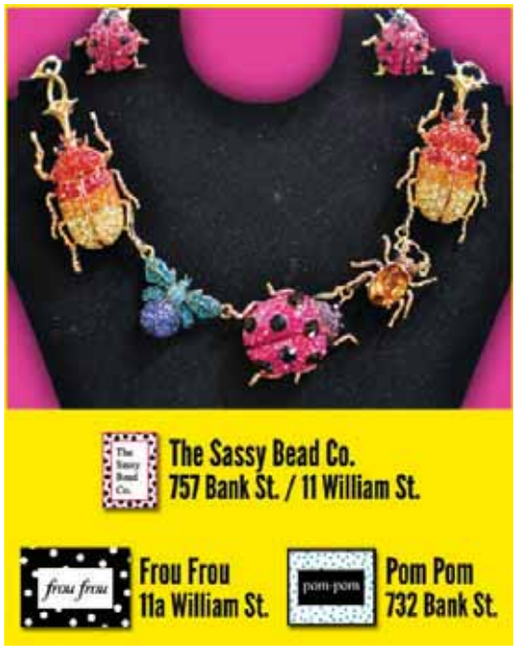
▶ In this corner, hailing from Burnaby, B.C., Michael Bublé.

VS.

▶ And in this corner, hailing from Stratford, Ont., Justin Bieber.

Battle of the Canuck crooners

It's a tale of the tape as Justin Bieber and Michael Bublé square off for Christmas dominance



Justin Bieber's holiday show may be the hottest ticket in Toronto this week, but few have better reasons for Christmas cheer this season than his compatriot Michael Bublé.

While Bieber performed a hotly anticipated acoustic Christmas show at Toronto's Massey Hall on Wednesday night, Bublé is fresh off a memorable performance on Saturday Night Live and his holiday disc has been one of the hottest items of the holiday shopping season.

So, which Canadian crooner is flying higher at the moment? Perhaps a tale of the tape can help determine the victor.

AGE

Bublé is 36; Bieber is 17.

HOMETOWN

Bieber hails from Stratford, Ont., while Bublé grew up in Burnaby, B.C.

MOST MANTEL METAL

Considering that Bieber's brand of featherlight teen-pop typically elicits sneering from some critics, his awards tally has been impressive: two Juno Awards and a pair of Grammy nominations. Respectable, to be sure, but no match for Bublé, whose distinctive retro charm has helped him haul home 10 Junos and three Grammys.

Advantage: Bublé

FAMOUS FRIENDS

Bublé has a longstanding partnership with well-connected Canadian hitmaker David Foster, he reeled in Shania Twain for a White Christmas duet and he starred in a splashy holiday special that featured a bevy of well-known guests, none bigger than ... well, Justin Bieber. Bieber, meanwhile, has collaborated with Usher, Kanye West, Mariah Carey, Miley Cyrus, Chris Brown, Rascal Flatts, Ludacris and Boyz II Men.

Advantage: Bieber

TABLOID TRAUMA

Bieber's squeaky-clean image was tainted slightly this year when the singer was slapped with a paternity suit — allegations his team has vigorously denied — while he and girlfriend Selena Gomez were shadowed everywhere they went by prying paparazzi.

The newlywed Bublé and wife Luisana Lopilato seem to be afforded slightly more privacy.

Advantage: Bublé

SILVER-SCREEN DREAMS

Bublé has mused in interviews about an eventual transition to acting, and he won laughs with a recent cameo on Saturday Night Live (one which coincidentally poked fun at Bieber). But his IMDB credits are limited to pre-fame performances in little-known stinkers (2001's Totally Blonde, anyone?).

Bieber's two-episode arc as a troubled teen on CSI didn't exactly elicit Emmy attention, but it was a bona fide role on a popular show, and his concert film Never Say Never earned more than $70 million in North America.

Advantage: Bieber

SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY

This one's a landslide.

Bieber has nearly 15.6-million followers on Twitter, an army of devoted fans who hang on his every lower-case missive as if their lives depend on it. Bublé has roughly 600,000 followers but doesn't issue the tweets himself — the reliably irreverent singer told The Canadian Press recently that he had to stay away from the platform because "(he would) get in huge trouble within days."

Advantage: Bieber

DECEMBER DOMINANCE

While Bieber's Under the Mistletoe has sold briskly — reaching platinum certification three times in Canada — Bublé has this year achieved a level of holiday ubiquity usually reserved for festive drinks, goofy sweaters and tense family dinners.

Bublé's album, Christmas, has been certified platinum seven times over in Canada and, according to Billboard, it's on pace to become the second best-selling record of the year in the U.S., behind only Adele's 21.

Advantage: Bublé

BEST HAIR

Sorry, Mike.

Advantage: Bieber

THE WINNER:

Two Canadians doing extraordinarily well for themselves with fanbases that barely overlap?

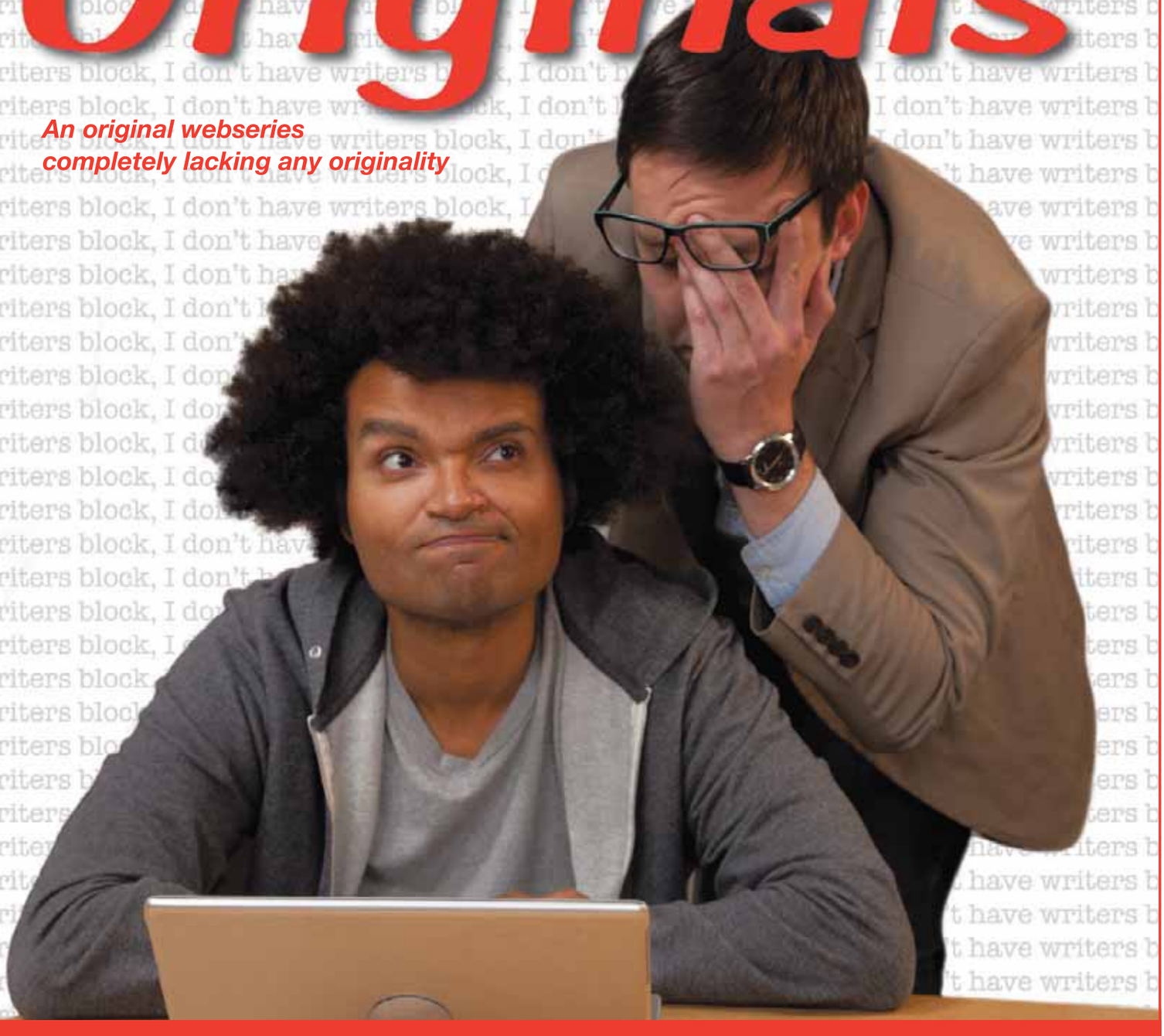
Let's call this a tie.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

An original webseries completely lacking any originality



In today's episodes...

The Originals webseries draws to a close today with episodes 8 and 9. Will the guys finally come up with an original TV show idea for their big pitch meeting? Will Jason win Carina? Will Marsha win Jason? Will Trish really help Bryce? Will there be a wrap party? Find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions. Watch the concluding episodes today.

Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

We want to watch too

U.S. cable hits slow to make their way across the border to Canadian TV schedule

Each year at about this time, the launch of the U.S. awards season only serves to highlight a glaring disparity for TV fan Maria Lau — some of the hottest, most acclaimed series are not available in Canada.

Case in point: Boss, the breakout Starz show that just netted a Golden Globe nomination for best drama and a best actor nod for star Kelsey Grammer. The edgy serial, centred on a hard-nosed Chicago mayor, currently can't be seen north of the border and that's bewildering to entertainment addicts like Lau.

"It is frustrating as a TV viewer," says the 32-year-old Lau, who scours the Internet for details about and clips of critical smashes that often land here months late.

"I'm a pop culture junkie so I subscribe to all the U.S. magazines that talk about television and movies and stuff like that. I end up reading about (these shows) and you get intrigued by what the show is about and you get rave reviews and you're kind of like, 'Well, why can't I watch it?'"

Boss is actually heading to the Canadian pay network Super Channel in April, but that's a long time to wait for small screen fanatic Christine Alexiou, who voices similar complaints.

"We're always waiting," says Alexiou, acknowledging it's particularly frustrating for reality competition shows like Lifetime's Project Runway, which airs belatedly here on Slice.

"(Before a show arrives) you're already going 'Damn, it's been done. It's already there (in the U.S.) and it's already over.' We should all know the winner by now and yet we can't even see the show."

Canada's basic main networks — Global, Citytv, CTV and CTV Two — routinely match their schedules with U.S. networks ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox but that's because they essentially compete for the same Canadian eyeballs, says CTV executive Mike Cosentino, referring to a practice known as simulcasting.

Meanwhile, Canada's specialty and pay channels air their imports exclusively in this country, so there is no advantage to matching the U.S. schedule if a Canadian viewer can't legally watch the show anywhere else, says Shaw content boss Barb Williams.

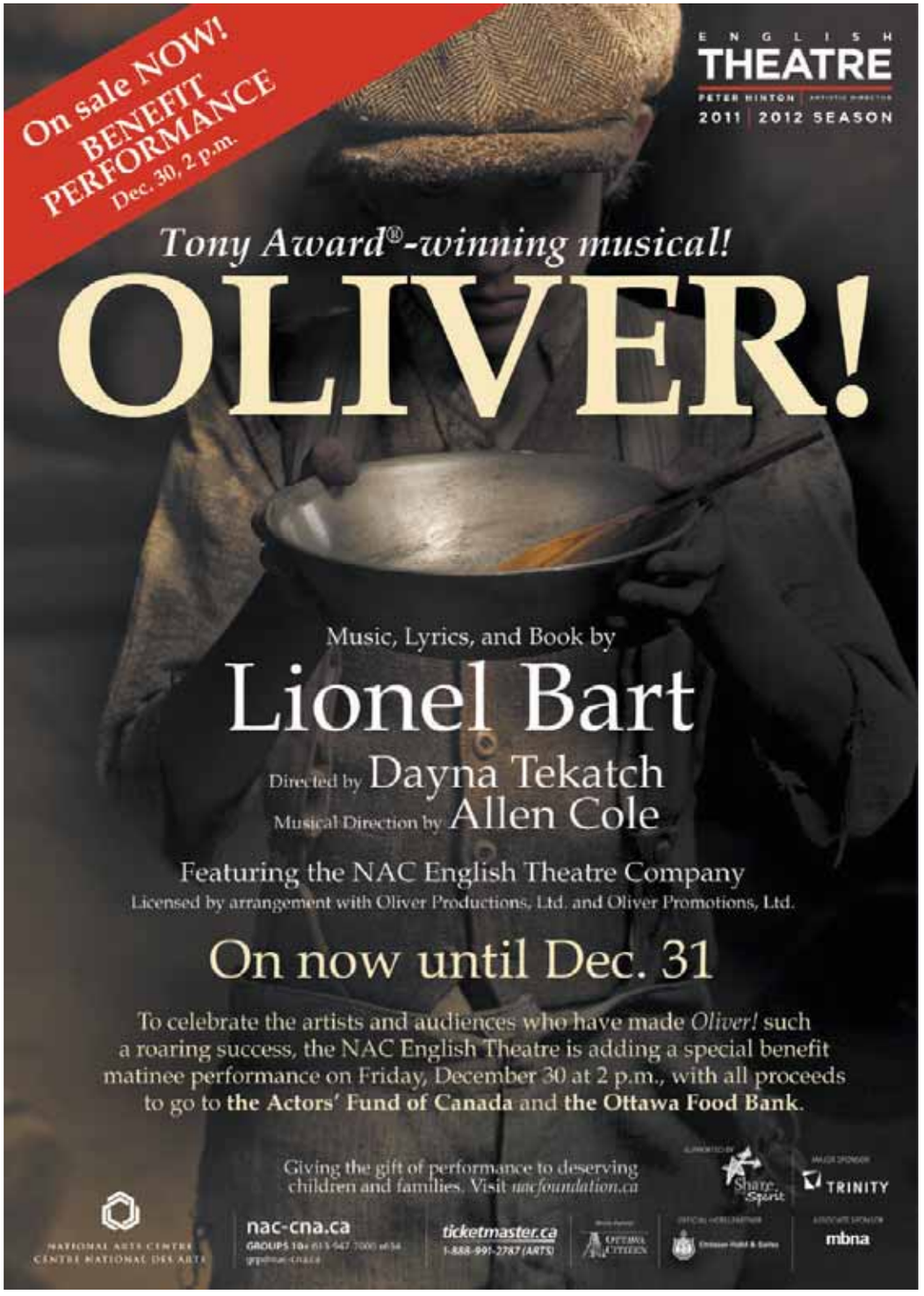
"It's not like you can simulcast — that's what really drives the day-and-date on conventional," says Williams, who oversees programming for 18 specialty channels including Showcase, IFC and Slice.

"There's no huge advantage to being absolutely on the same day."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HANDOUT

▶ Kelsey Grammer stars in the critically-acclaimed show Boss, which is not currently aired in Canada.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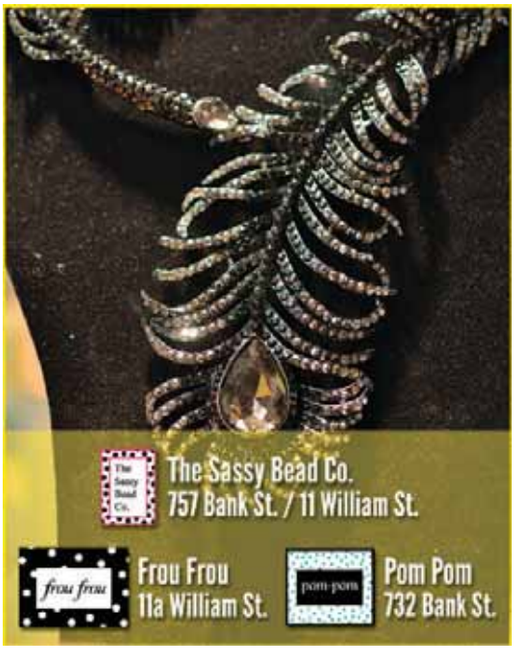

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FEATURING

SOUNDS LIKE KILT!

TONY, TREVOR & GLEN ARE BACK!

In the late 1990's there was an explosion of East Coast Celtic Rock and at the forefront of this movement was a fun-loving Halifax band called KILT. Their high energy shows, insane cover songs and wacky banter earned them a cult like following and ECMA nominations for Best New Artist and Group Of The Year. Their albums "KILT" and "Four In The Crib" with their own songs like "Rubber Boots", "Island Kitchen" and "Lift Up Your Glass" saw heavy rotation on radio and music TV, while their kick-ass Celtic version of KISS's "I Was Made For Loving You" has probably been copied more times than the original!

Fast forward to 2003 when charismatic front man and powerhouse lead vocalist Tony Ronalds teamed up with KILT founding member Glen McInnis (Big Slick) and Ottawa pub scene veteran Trevor Bowering (Walter Ego/Kilbride) to be D'Arcy McGee's Wednesday Night House band jokingly called "Sounds Like KILT!" for years to come. Tony, Trevor and Glen haven't done a show together in years so expect a crazy night with some surprise special guest performances as this reunion bash promises to be legendary!

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Dancing days for Crowe

Writer-director returns with same enthusiasm, new stable of characters

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cameron Crowe

Fresh off an inspired writing session, Cameron Crowe is pulsing with enthusiasm.

He spent the previous night sitting outside New York's Plaza Hotel, a spot that made him recall one of his first trips to New York — as a teenage journalist for Rolling Stone — in which he stayed at the Plaza while chronicling a Led Zeppelin tour.

"I was just thinking, 'Man, it's like no time has passed,' says Crowe. "This is the future time. That's what it was. You always wonder, 'In the future time, what will this all mean? What will it all amount to?' That was kind of the revelation of last night: Here I am. And it feels like no time."

After six years of uncertainty, the present is feeling good for Crowe, the writer-director of earnest, personal films such as Say Anything... and Jerry Maguire.

He's back with his first feature film since 2005's critical and box-office misfire Elizabethtown: We Bought a Zoo, an unabashedly warmhearted family film about a father (Matt Damon) who, after his wife dies of cancer, impulsively buys a rundown zoo to re-energize himself and his two kids.

"My dream was always to be able to be like a guy like Spike Lee or Woody Allen or Truffaut where one day you can look at all the stuff and they all come together to give you a portrait of a human life, in different stages of it."
CAMERON CROWE

"I don't look at the time post-Elizabethtown as the bottom of the roller coaster," says the perpetually writing Crowe. "I kind of look at it as a gathering time."

In those years, Crowe plotted a film about Marvin Gaye that failed to get off the ground (he hopes to still make it), scripted an adaptation of David Sheff's Beautiful Boy and Tweak (a pair of books about an addict father and his son) and made two music documentaries (the Pearl Jam retrospective Pearl Jam Twenty and The Union, about Elton John's collaboration with Leon Russell).

He was also divorced from his wife of 24 years, Nancy Wilson of the band Heart, with whom he has 11-year-old twin sons.

Crowe says Wilson remains a "close collaborator" with the children, and that he eagerly voted for Heart in this year's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees.

The parallels with We Bought a Zoo — which includes moving scenes of Damon's character fondly reminiscing about his wife — aren't lost on Crowe.

"This movie is about keeping souvenirs of a lost love," says Crowe. "Even in the broken relationships or people that have died or moved on, there's valuable luggage to be kept that guides the future."

Crowe himself is a big collector. His largest collections might be his LPs and various music memorabilia, such as treasured set lists and ticket stubs. But he also keeps things from his movies. The boombox John Cusack raised over his head in Say Anything... sits in his garage.

His most cherished item is a signed Vans sneaker from Sean Penn, who played the Vans-wearing stoner Spicoli in Fast Times at Ridgemont High — Crowe's first script.

Though no masterpiece, We Bought a Zoo is considerably better than its title and plot synopsis suggest.

It's a rare film Crowe has directed but hasn't written (he shares screenplay credit with Aline Brosh McKenna, who adapted Benjamin Mee's autobiographical book), and it bears many hallmarks of the director.

Last week on The Daily Show, Damon, realizing the movie didn't sound like the most artistic enterprise, took to shouting at the crowd the simple justification: "Cameron Crowe directed it!"
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Getting 'under the skin of the viewer'

Trent Reznor's novel approach to Dragon Tattoo score is rewarded with a Golden Globe nod

GETTY IMAGES

Trent Reznor

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross started writing music for the American adaptation of The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo months before they'd even seen the script.

"We tried some new approaches in terms of handing over lots and lots of music that was composed really from an impressionist point of view, before anything was even shot, so that (director) David (Fincher) and the filmmakers could really weave it into the fabric of the story," Reznor said. "Just see how that works: A new experiment."

It seems to have worked just fine: The composers earned a Golden Globe nomination last week for their original score — their second consecutive nomination in that category. The pair won the Golden Globe and the Academy Award for their score for 2010's The Social Network.

Reznor, 46, said working with Fincher on The Social Network prepared the composers to take a novel approach to the music for Dragon Tattoo.

"As I learned how the process works on Social Network, it struck me that the director could really use access to music while the scenes are being edited together," he said.

"Often what they do is reach into a bucket of temp music to kind of get the vibe of what they think it might sound like. I thought, well, if you had a lot of music to start with, that would certainly be a helpful tool while they're putting the broad strokes of the film together."

Reznor and Ross dedicated a year to the project, and much of the music they wrote before shooting began made it into the final film, which opened Wednesday. The film follows a journalist (played by Daniel Craig) who enlists the help of a young computer hacker (Rooney Mara) to investigate a series of decades-old killings. The original Swedish version of the film, based on Stig Larsson's novel, was released in 2009.

Fincher's film is "a fairly unpleasant and uncomfortable viewing experience," Reznor said.

"We really wanted to get under the skin of the viewer and contribute to a sense of uneasiness when that was appropriate, and also try to breathe life into the landscape where this takes place, a very frigid Sweden, and act like set dressing really. It's not an obvious score."

He said the composers aimed to create music that "fits right in with the lighting or the set design or the costumes."

"There's nothing I think you're going to leave the theatre humming in your head necessarily in terms of score, and that's intentional," Reznor said.

It's a completely new way to think about music for the Nine Inch Nails frontman.

"When I'm writing music for myself or for my own projects, I'm hoping that it eats up close to 100 per cent of your attention, what's coming into your ears. And working in film and particularly with David, it really is contributing to the overall experience," Reznor said.

"It's forcing me to rethink how I compose and what role sound plays and how to contribute and manipulate emotionally what you're experiencing but not in the same way I'm used to doing it, and that makes it exciting for me."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Did Jones get the 'X'?

There are rumours The X-Factor host Steve Jones won't be back next season Jones' rep denies the claims

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host the U.S. edition of The X-Factor after one season on the job, according to Hollyscoop.

"He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says.

"The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication." "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving The X Factor," the representative told the magazine.

It's sad that a rumoured firing is the only way to make people care about The X-Factor.

Steve Jones

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the world wide web are reporting that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that Bon Jovi died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this Tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wy.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool..."

Justin Timberlake

Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner but you never know.

Justin Bieber

More baby troubles for the Biebs

Justin Bieber may have thought taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of Mariah Yeater, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as Yeater is concerned nothing has been resolved.

"I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case — I do believe he is the father."

METRO

Penn a 'communist'

Sean Penn reportedly got into a screaming match at LAX airport recently with former co-star — and longtime Penn critic — Maria Conchita Alonso, the actress reveals. "I said, 'You are a communist, Sean Penn.' He said, 'You are a pig!' So I said, 'And you are a communist a–hole! Is it great to live the way you do as a communist?'" Alonso says. The actress, who starred with Penn in 1988's Colors, says she wanted to apologize.

METRO

Angry Anthony eyes custody battle with JLo

While they've remained civil since their July split, it's reportedly about to get very ugly between Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, with a "vicious" custody battle on the way, according to Us Weekly.

The trigger seems to be Lopez's new boyfriend, Casper Smart, and his apparent bonding with Lopez and Anthony's 3-year-old twins, Max and Emme. Antony reportedly "hit the roof" after seeing photos of Lopez, Smart and the kids enjoying Thanksgiving together in Hawaii and is "going back on his word and saying he wants joint custody," a source says.

"He wants to make Jennifer suffer because she's having fun with someone new, and he knows this will hurt her on the deepest level."

METRO

Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart

Celebrity tweets

@joelmchale

Thanks news outlets. I am now fully informed about how the Post Office is busier around the holidays. Man, was I in the dark.

@rosariodawson

I'm so glad I made it back to London in time to surprise my Mama with Duran Duran at the O2! They just played my song! Rio!!!!!!

@NathanFillion

Dear Morning Coffee, How was your ride to work on top of my car? Glad you made it. But now you're iced coffee.

@sarahksilverman

Had a war time dream where I had to go to battle but I didn't want to because I had a zit

Hathaway in no New York hurry to tie the knot

Anne Hathaway is ready to marry fiancé Adam Shulman — but apparently not as ready as the New York Post would like.

The newspaper reported earlier this week that the couple had set an October 2012 wedding date and had even sent out save-the-date cards to guests for a lavish, New York-area ceremony.

However Hathaway's rep insists that there is no date and no cards have been sent out, according to a report from E! News.

METRO

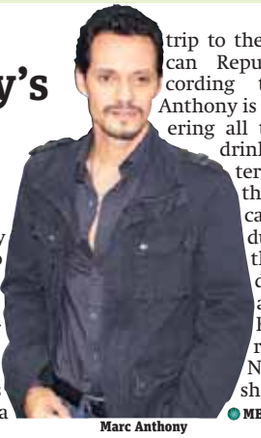
Anne Hathaway

Marc Anthony's no Scrooge

Marc Anthony knows how to treat his employees at Christmas.

As an end-of-the-year bonus, the singer reportedly treated his 14-person staff to a trip to the Dominican Republic, according to TMZ. Anthony is even covering all the food, drink and entertainment the staff can handle during their five-day stay at the La Romana resort. Not too shabby.

METRO



Marc Anthony

In and out of fashion

WHO TAKES THE CROWN?

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Catherine Middleton, Kate Moss and Charlene Wittstock went head-to-head in the battle of the best-dressed brides. The couture creations all took to the catwalk-like church aisles to be picked apart. Here's what we learned for it all.

1 Long-sleeves are back, thanks to the Duchess of Cambridge. Just look at the new Twilight movie.

2 A pretty gown can't hide the fact that you can't stand the groom. We can barely remember how the Princess of Monaco's dress looked, but we'll never forget that eerie frozen smile on her face.

3 Never mind that the idea has been a staple of cheesetastic weddings for years, it's now perfectly OK to have 15 bridesmaids in your wedding — as long as they look like little pre-Raphaelite angels like the ones in Kate Moss'. You want to channel rock and roll royalty, rather than prom queens from hell.

4 Never, ever, five more evers, give your maid of honour a hotter dress than yours. We've all heard the horror stories about a rival woman stealing the bride's day. But your own sister? The Pippa Middleton Ass Appreciation Society is still going strong on Facebook.

But have you seen any Kate Middleton Victorian Bustle Admiration Councils, hmmm?

5 Kate Moss is cooler than the real Royals. Mark Ronson, Naomi Campbell, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs were just a few of the people who attended her wedding.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate and Jamie are in love with a rock 'n' world.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate gets to grips with the Royal wave.

GETTY IMAGES

THE YEAR'S MOST OVERRATED FASHION PLATES

THE KARDASHIANS

- Sky-high Louboutins, black stretch jeans and leopard print do not a fashion icon make.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

- She makes this list simply for inconsistency. Sometimes she nails it. Other times, such as her crystal-encrusted nude bodysuit on the American Music Awards, she fails miserably.

JESSICA SIMPSON

- Her clothing line is reportedly nearly worth a billion dollars. But we don't get it. Have you seen the way she dresses?

3 life

Style pick

Keep your eyes on Beyoncé's little sis

Fashion blogs and magazines have rightfully acknowledged how amazing Solange Knowles has been looking lately. But it's time for the rest of the world to get in line.

MWN

Michael Kors goes from runway to Wall Street after investors clamour for stock

Arch appeal: Achieve simple, spirited brows

THE KIT

By Janine Falcon

Bold brows wowed from the most recent runways, theatrically at Jean Paul Gaultier and Alexander Wang, and in a more wearable fashion from Jill Stuart and Prada.

Powders and pencils are brow-building staples, but fine-tip marker-like pens are on the rise, like the one Anastasia launched a few years back. Now available from Stila, Urban Decay and Gosh, they offer sheer, long-lasting shades that suit everyone from light blonde to dark brunette.

Fine-tipped tools:

• Magic Markers Stila All Day Waterproof Brow Color in Medium (also comes in Light). $27 each, stilacosmetics.com.

• Gosh Long Lasting Brow Pens, in Dark Brown, Wheat, Mahogany and Venetian Brown. $15 each, goshcosmetics.com.

• Urban Decay Urban Brow Precision Tip Brow Tint in Universal Blonde and Universal Brunette. $24 each, urbandecay.com

SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE TO THEKIT.CA AND DISCOVER THE DIGITAL WORLD OF BEAUTY.

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
Now pre-taping 2 @CTVCanadaAM segments: 2011's top style mavens + fashion's top news stories. Who do YOU think rocked style this year?

- **@MsJoyce_xo:** so many choices but if they put Pippa Middleton on another best dressed list I am going to lose my mind. #idontseeit
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** I know... But hard to ignore. And better than some ol' movie star....
- **@WordfromSteph:** Kate Winslet. She's totally coming out of her shell. Her Cover shoot for British Glamour = fabulous!!
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Agree!!!!
- **@escobar700:** for the man...Adam Levels/ Anderson Cooper. For the ladies, Lady Gaga, Sarah Jessica Parker, Victoria Beckham Tilda Swinton.
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Cool choices!

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Xmas shopping @TeatroVerdi with my mum. True Joy!

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Dragon breathes fire into line

Fictional character Lisbeth Salander's gothic-grunge style inspires a H&M collection with dark, urban feel

Stieg Larsson's enigmatic anti-heroine Lisbeth Salander, from the bestselling books and upcoming U.S. film remake The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, is an unlikely trendsetter.

From her multiple facial piercings and choppy, jet-black hair to her ripped tees and work boots held together with duct tape, Lisbeth's look is not only unconventional, but some might find it off-putting.

"We always wanted her clothes to sort of repel people and be a means of keeping people away," said actress Rooney Mara at the film's New York premiere Wednesday, a day before nabbing a Golden Globe nod for the role.

Yet huge Swedish retailer H&M saw an opportunity in sprucing up Lisbeth's style and making it safer for the masses.

SONY, COLUMBIA PICTURES, MERRICK MORTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Rooney Mara is shown in a scene from The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo.

The Dragon Tattoo Collection, created by costume designer Trish Summerville, features faux-leather coats, biker pants, shredded tees and dark denim miniskirts.

"There's different key pieces that I took out of her wardrobe that she wears in the film and we kind of changed the silhouette a little bit, changed the fabrication, cleaned the pieces up," explained Summerville in a recent interview.

The collection ranges from $3.95 for swirly, spiked earrings to $199 for a fitted black leather coat. There also are studded belts, slouchy canvas bags and black boots distressed just enough to reveal a grey under layer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Double duty Christmas decor

When in a holiday pinch, use what you've got

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

For me, Christmas is all about setting a festive mood with holiday decor.

Although it would be nice to buy new holiday decor items each year, I find myself wanting to get creative with things from years past to create a more personal style to my space this year.

Here's a few ways to create interesting holiday focal points with things you might already have around the house.

Create instant holiday ambiance: Take that unused silver tray and fill it with pillar candles of various heights, tea lights, fresh greenery and a few holiday ornaments. It will look great as a dining room centrepiece.

Use your wreath as a centrepiece

Last year's faux wreath or this year's fresh one hanging on the front door can easily take a horizontal position and become a festive centrepiece.

Place a few pillar candles, some holiday ornaments or a lonely poinsettia plant inside the wreath and you've got an impressive centrepiece for any table.

Got an old plastic wreath? Spray paint it with a trendy colour like teal or citrus green for one last year of beauty.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A wreath can go from door to table as a decorative focal point.

Layer your tables with decorative fabrics

Throws, blankets and quilts can add pattern and colour to a tabletop

These work to protect the table while giving it casual flair.

Whether layering on a buffet or coffee table, try adding rich colours and tones from lux throws like faux-fur, wool plaid or chenille fabrics for a worldly look.

Look for blankets and throws made of synthetic fibres if concerned about stains.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Blankets and throws help make a decorative holiday table casual.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Funky holiday lights brighten up unused glass vases.

Display holiday lights in a tall vase

Fill various shaped glass vases with LED string lights and group together on a sofa table or in front of an used fireplace to create a modern holiday glow. Clear vases display multi-coloured lights best while white lights look great in coloured glass vases.

This idea also makes a safe night light in a guest room, hallway or foyer to guide guests throughout your space with having to turn on bright overhead lights at night.

Simple tricks

Large glass Mason jars make great hurricane lanterns to hold pillar candles. Frost the outsides with spray snow for a wintery look.

- **Decorative wrapping papers** make festive disposable table runners or placemats, and holiday ribbons make great napkin rings.
- **Birch fire logs** can get glamourous with a quick spray of metallic gold or silver paint and stacked beside the fireplace.

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A few reno rules

Forgot to plant that money tree in your garden? Don't worry, you can still renovate your home A few things to consider before you get started

DIY IDEAS

You've spent ages planning your new kitchen or bedroom. But how much should you spend and how do you get the best bang for your buck?

Leave it to Bryan is a new HGTV series where homeowners who have ideas for their perfect reno turn to Bryan Baeumler (Disaster DIY) with their budget and their home and let him decide which room in their house really needs the reno.

Metro asked Baeumler for a few tips on budgeting for home makeovers.

How much should you spend to renovate a bathroom, kitchen and bedroom?

You really could spend any amount of money on each of these projects, but assuming you are choosing the average, moderately-priced renovation here's what I'd budget:

Three-piece bathroom: $8,000 to $12,000
Kitchen: $20,000 to $25,000
Bedroom: $2,000 to $7,000

Should you align your budget for renovations according to the overall worth of your home? For example, if your house is $300,000, what's a reasonable amount to spend on a bathroom reno?

It's not necessary to directly compare a single renovation with your overall home's worth.

The cost of a reno does not just depend on the value of your home, but also the location, neighbourhood, and size of your home. It's all relative to where you are living.

Give us some general tips for getting the most value for your money?

In the bathroom, the best bang for your buck comes from upgrading tiles and fixtures.

In the kitchen, the best bang for your buck comes from countertops, cabinet doors and the backsplash.

In the bedroom, the best bang for your buck lies in the flooring, trim and paint.

However, in any renovation you are doing, don't skip over leaky pipes, electrical problems or structural issues just to get a great look on top. These problems will remain if they're not taken care of properly.

There is no hard and fast rule as to the cost of a particular renovation. You should spend what you are comfortable spending. The costs of renos are always relative.

You can expect labour to be two-thirds of the overall cost, but beyond that materials can vary greatly (tiles can go from 69 cents to $48 per square foot).

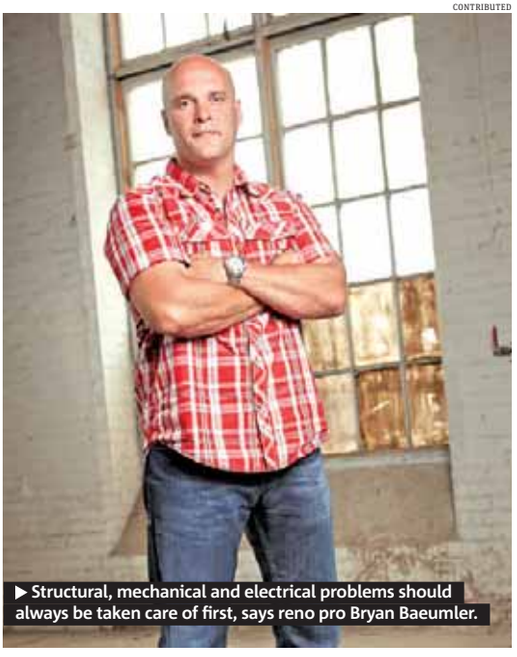
If you're doing a reno for resale, definitely don't blow the bank on high end materials as you cannot guarantee that it will be the buyer's dream home.

RUN MY RENOVATION AIRS BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES SUNDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/6 P.M. PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

Kitchen help

"If I had to pick one room that would give the most bang for your buck in home renos, it would be the kitchen. Your family will spend the most time in that room – often three times a day – so it's absolutely worth it."
– Bryan Baeumler

CONTRIBUTED



Structural, mechanical and electrical problems should always be taken care of first, says reno pro Bryan Baeumler.

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"I can't believe how much we accomplished. We've lived in our home for years and didn't do anything, and that could have gone on forever. This motivated us to do stuff we were procrastinating about."
– Chris Renwick, Episode 3

Web: allfornothingtv.ca E-mail: sonja@mountainroad.ca Phone: 613-237-4447

Figuring out how to grow figs

Much more fun than the Fig Newton bars we all had in our lunch boxes

Even if you don't grow edible fruits, it's likely you've grown some sort of ornamental fig. They range from creeping vines to majestic trees, most of them tropical, in which case they can make majestic houseplants.

Interestingly, the edible fig is among the cold-hardiest of fig species, tolerating temperatures down to about 9 C. It also makes the least satisfactory houseplant of the lot because indoors it grows too leggy, and becomes susceptible to pests such as spider mites.

This fig is also deciduous – that is, it loses its leaves in winter or, if there is no winter in your living room, it might drop some leaves and look as if it would like to drop the rest.

Small fig plants for small spaces

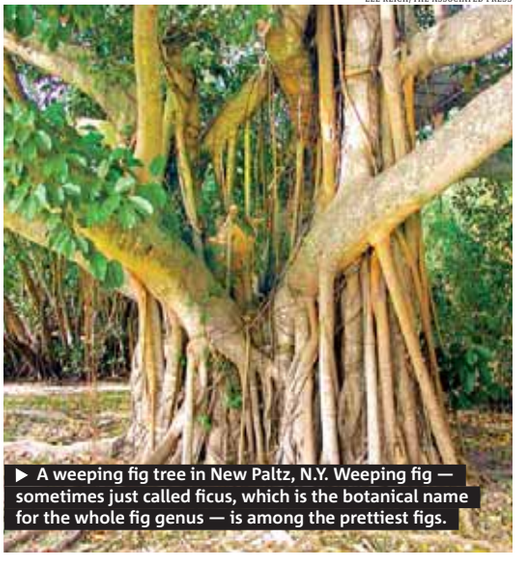
Feeling festive? Mistletoe fig is a small, bushy plant that has rounded leaves and readily bears small fruits, unfortunately inedible.

Creeping fig is a charmer, a tropical vine with tiny, heart-shaped leaves. Tiny at first, that is, because once this plant takes hold and matures, it grows exuberantly and develops a different kind of leaf, one that is large and oblong. The way to keep the leaves small and contain the plant's enthusiasm is to keep it juvenile by lopping it back severely from time to time.

These plants want to take root

Look closely at almost any fig plant, whether a tree, shrub or vine, especially if the humidity is high enough, and you may notice "threads" dangling from its branches. Those are aerial roots. In humid, tropical climates, they drip from the branches to the ground or cling to a wall, where they actually take hold. Over time, some fig trees' aerial roots will thicken to become new trunks that meld together to create a single trunk of enormous girth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ A weeping fig tree in New Paltz, N.Y. Weeping fig — sometimes just called ficus, which is the botanical name for the whole fig genus — is among the prettiest figs.

STAIN CONTROL

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@ METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Hi Charles,
I bought a beautiful pink leather jacket and somehow got a couple of ballpoint pen marks on it about an inch or two long. Do you know of any method to remove these marks?

I've done some research on this and you do have a difficult problem on your hands. I have two suggestions for you.

But before you do anything, remember to please first check the suggested solution on an area that is not visible to ensure you do not damage the leather.

I have two options for you to try:

1. Rub the ink mark with a soft cloth dampened with milk, then sponge it with warm water.
2. Try dabbing a Q-Tip in rubbing alcohol then using the Q-Tip to slowly work on the ink mark. My only concern is that the alcohol may damage the colour of the leather. So definitely test this method first!

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK

▶ For precise stain removal, try using a Q-Tip.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

This year, instead of generic gift cards, why not make ornaments for friends and family? Putting their names and the year on these festive gifts ensures holiday memories won't just melt away with the snow

HOLLY RAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

These homemade ornaments come straight from the heart.

Materials:

- Glass ball ornaments
- Polymer clay
- Clay cutting blade or scissors
- 'Pasta machine' for rolling out clay (optional)
- Small alphabet and number stamps
- Aluminum foil
- Fine-tipped permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Fine, clear glitter
- Ribbon (optional)

Directions:

1. Roll out a thin sheet of white clay large enough to wrap around the glass ornament. The colour doesn't matter since you will be painting the ornaments later, but a lighter colour will be easier to cover with paint. Remove the ornament's metal topper.
2. Wrap the sheet of clay around the ornament so it looks like a tube of clay with the ornament in the middle. Pinch the sheet of clay together and trim off the excess. Continue pinching the clay around the top and the bottom of the ornament and trimming off the excess so that the entire ornament except for the top opening is covered.
3. Smooth the clay around the ornament to get rid of any seams where the clay overlapped. Don't worry if it looks a bit lumpy; snowballs are not perfectly round.
4. Use the rubber stamps (without ink) to imprint a name and date on the clay-covered ornament.
5. Make a stand for the ornament out of aluminum foil by twisting a narrow piece of foil into a ring that you can then set the ornament on to keep it upright in the oven.
6. Bake ornament according to directions on the polymer clay wrapping. Allow to cool. Place metal cap back on the top of the ornament.
7. Paint entire ornament with white paint. Allow to dry. (To avoid smearing the paint, you can hang the ornament by a hook to dry).
8. Use a marker to carefully colour in the stamped name and date. If you colour outside the lines, just touch it up later.
9. Brush glue over ornament, leaving a border around the name and date if desired. Dust liberally with glitter, shaking off excess. Add a ribbon if desired.

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Are you having people over to ring in 2012? Serve this healthy version of cheese fondue

Want a trick for starting the year off on a fun and healthy note? Drag out the fondue pot!

This recipe lets you eat sinfully without the sin. The secret is in the blend of cheeses: A low-fat Jarlsberg, a creamy light brie and already low-calorie pecorino Romano make a rich fondue that no one will guess is low in calories and fat.

Traditional cheese fondue can pack 670 calories and 29 grams of fat per serving. This version comes in with just 227 calories and 10 grams of fat.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The fondue serves four people

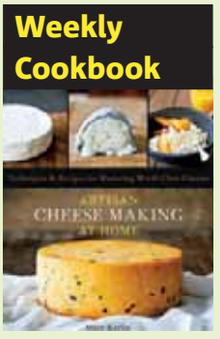
Preparation:

1. Heat broiler. Set top oven rack about 10 cm (4 inches) below broiler.
2. Cut crusts off slices of bread. Cut each bread slice into 4 equal strips. Wrap 1 bread strip halfway around one grape and poke long metal skewer through bread and grape so skewer is pushed through both ends of bread strip with grape in middle. Repeat with remaining bread strips and grapes.
3. Place all 16 skewers on baking sheet. Broil 2 mins. or until bread is browned, turning once halfway through broiling. Set aside.
4. In saucepan over medium-high, bring water and shallot to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, until shallots are tender, about 2 minutes.
5. In small bowl, mix arrowroot with 30 ml (1 oz) of Champagne. Pour remaining Champagne into saucepan with shallot. Whisk arrowroot and Champagne mix into saucepan. Continue to cook; whisk until mixture thickens, 30 seconds.
6. Reduce heat to low and add Jarlsberg, whisking constantly until cheese melts. Add pecorino and continue whisking until melted. Repeat with brie. Season to taste with salt and pinch of cayenne. Pour mix into fondue pot and serve with bread and grape skewers for dipping. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO, AUTHOR OF EAT THIS NOW!**

Ingredients:

- 4 slices of light whole-wheat bread
- 16 seedless red grapes
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced shallot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 125 ml (4 oz) demi sec Champagne, divided
- 125 g (4 oz) Jarlsberg light cheese, finely shredded
- 60 g (2 oz) pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 60 g (2 oz) light brie, cut up with rind removed
- Salt and cayenne pepper

Weekly Cookbook



Mary Karlin's Artisan Cheese Making at Home is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for making mouthwatering cheese and dairy items.

This lavishly illustrated guide features more than 80 recipes for a diverse range of cheeses: From quick and satisfying Mascarpone and Queso Blanco to cultured products like Crème Fraîche and Yogurt to flavourful selections like Saffron-Infused Manchego, Irish-Style Cheddar, and Bloomy Blue Log Chèvre.

Tenderloin: Secret to budget entertaining

Preparation:

1. Pat tenderloin dry with paper towels and brush meat with a thin coat of oil; set aside.
2. In bowl, mix together salt, pepper, garlic and cayenne. Sprinkle rub evenly over tenderloin.
3. Place tenderloin directly on greased grill over high heat and sear for 2 minutes on each side. After all the sides are seared, reduce one side of the grill to medium and the other side to the lowest possible heat. Set meat over cooler side and grill for another 30 to 40 minutes for medium-rare, or until a thermometer inserted at the thickest spot reads 55 C (130 F). Alternatively, sear in skillet on the stove, then set on a rack over rimmed baking sheet and roast in a 180 C (350 F) oven. When done, transfer tenderloin to a platter, cover with foil and let rest 15 mins.
4. Pour cream into stainless-steel bowl. Using electric mixer, whip cream until soft peaks form. Add horseradish. Taste and adjust, adding more horseradish if you like it stronger. Season with lemon juice, salt.
5. Thinly slice beef and serve with horseradish cream and dinner rolls. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL (EXECUTIVE CHEF AT HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS HILL COUNTRY CHICKEN IN NEW YORK)/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

- 1 whole beef tenderloin (about 2.2-kg/5-lb)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) kosher salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) eacg minced garlic/ cayenne pepper

Horseradish Cream:

- 500 ml (2 cups) 35% whipping cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) refrigerated prepared horseradish
- 30 mL (2 tbsp) lemon juice
- Fine-grain sea salt
- Dinner rolls

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Puff it up in the pastry department

Fresh gourmet dates and walnuts are combined in this recipe to make stunning and decadent treats

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Make 24 pastry pouches with this recioe.

This holiday season, you might want to add something very special to your sweet trays such as the fresh dates grown in the Bard Valley that surround the lower Colorado River Valley.

Soft and chewy like caramel, the dates are large and moist and excellent to stuff into puffed pastry for a decadent treat.

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In food processor fitted with a metal blade, place dates, walnuts, coconut, flour and cinnamon and pulse until combined.
3. In bowl, beat sugar and butter together until well blended. Gradually mix in date-walnut mixture.
4. Unroll one sheet of puff pastry and place on lightly floured work surface. Using floured rolling pin, roll out puff pastry to horizontal rectangle measuring 40 by 30 cm (16 by 12 inches). Pastry will be thin. Using sharp knife, make three vertical cuts and two horizontal cuts to divide rectangle into 12 10-cm (4-inch) squares.
5. Place 15 ml (1 tbsp) of filling centre of each square and dampen edges with water. Gather 4 corners and bring them up to centre, pinching dough together firmly to secure at top, forming square pouches. Leave seams along edges open to allow some filling to show. Brush top and sides of each pouch with beaten egg.
6. Unroll second sheet of puff pastry and repeat. Transfer to baking tray and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool slightly on wire rack. Great served warm or at room temperature. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATURAL DELIGHTS MEDJOOL DATES/ ADAPATED BY EMILY RICHARDS (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

- 400 g pkg frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dates, pitted (5 to 6 dates)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) finely chopped walnuts
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) flaked coconut
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter, softened
- 1 egg, beaten with 15 ml (1 tbsp) of water

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Apple Walnut Palmiers

Preparation:

1. Line baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside. In bowl, combine walnuts, apple jelly, honey and cinnamon.
2. Divide mix between two sheets of puff pastry and spread evenly. To shape, roll one edge of pastry to form pinwheel, stopping at middle. Roll opposite edge to make second pinwheel. Repeat with second puff pastry sheet.
3. Transfer palmiers onto a cutting board and cover with plastic wrap. Let chill in refrigerator at least 30 mins.
4. After palmiers refrigerate, slice each roll into 16 even slices. Place on baking sheets. Bake one sheet at a time in a 190 C (375 F) oven on centre oven rack for 35 mins. or until golden. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS**

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) walnut pieces, coarsely chopped
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) apple jelly
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) liquid honey
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 1 pkg (450 g/16 oz) butter puff pastry sheets, thawed

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December 25 (Sun) store closed please see our in-store poster for details
Check our website www.TnTsupermarket.com
Join us on Facebook (Search for T&T Supermarket)
Quantities and / or selection of items may be limited and may not be available in all stores. No rain checks or substitutions.
Advertised prices and product selection may vary by store location. T&T Supermarket reserves the right to limit quantities. Descriptions take precedence over photos. Some illustrations in this advertisement do not necessarily represent items on sale, and are for design purposes only. We reserve the right to correct any unintentional errors that may occur in the copy or illustrations.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FEATURE

Have a Hoppy Holiday

The pursuit of hoppiness ends with delicious Ontario craft beer results

JEFF O'REILLY
FOR METRO

2011 was definitely the "Year of The Hop" as there was an explosion of flavour in the beer world with a huge influx of delicious IPAs and pale ales.

Hops (humulus lupulus) are the THC-free cousin of the marijuana plant, whose use was not noted in brewing until the 11th century when they replaced items like dandelions, heather, ivy and marigolds. It was still another couple hundred years until hops were considered a standard ingredient in beer. This species of herbaceous perennial flower has hundreds of varieties and is used during various stages of brewing to impart flavours and aromas, while acting as a natural preservative and stabilizer in the brewing process.

The standardized measurement for the hoppiness of liquids is called International Bitterness Units (or IBUs), using a spectrophotometer to calculate the alpha acids that are released during the boil and its "perceived" bitterness.

I say perceived since the sweetness and quality of malts work against this to create balance. Originally intended to be on a scale of 100, many light lagers can be found at an inoffensive five IBUs or less. But today we find a few dozen beers around or beyond that mark, with Barrie's (Ont.) Flying Monkey Brewery releasing the world's hoppiest beer, "Alpha-for-nication," earlier this year, clocking in at a whopping 2,500 IBUs — that's right 2,500. I thought we would look at its bestselling beer, which is available at both the LCBO and Beer Store as a more approachable example.

Flying Monkey's Hoptical Illusion Almost Pale Ale (five per cent alcohol by volume, 32 IBUs) pours with a shiny copper penny hue and ample tan foam cap into a pint glass releasing a bountiful floral citrus hop and caramel malt nose. Pine resin, lemon and grapefruit hop bitterness with roasted, slightly sweet caramel, honey and biscuity malts, the beer is well carbonated with a slightly bitter lingering finish. Hop to it and grab one today.

JEFF O'REILLY/FOR METRO

▶ Chelsea is all smiles with a selection of hoppy Ontario craft beers, ranging from 32 to 80 International Bitterness Units (IBUs).

Uncork wine of the month gift

If the recipients on your gift list are wine lovers, and you are terrified of braving your mall, we have the perfect idea for a thoughtful last-minute present: A wine of the month gift subscription.

A perfect gift for any wine lover … yourself included! Savvy Selections' wine of the month club is a gift that gives long after holiday decorations are packed away.

Delivered to the recipient's door every month, it's an assortment of three bottles of hard-to-find wines from a different Ontario winery, carefully selected by our team of accredited sommeliers.

Announcing the wine's arrival is the monthly Savvy eZine. For more, see savvycompany.ca/selections/ontario/. Perfect for family, friends and clients in other cities, too!

Put our sommeliers on speed dial at 613-SAVVYCO or email cheers@savvycompany.ca.

Table will return on Jan. 12, 2012.

Take the historic foundation of Creole Louisiana style cuisine
and combine it with fresh local ingredients to create the most
delectable flavor combinations. Fresh shucked oysters,
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LUNCH: 11AM – 3PM (Monday – Friday) • DINNER: 5PM to close • EASY TIME: 4PM – 6PM & 9PM to close

The one who didn't get away

THE HOCKEY NEWS

MURRAY PAM
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

Sometimes, they say, the best trades are the ones you don't make. For Sens GM Bryan Murray that axiom lives and breathes in the form of hulking rookie Jared Cowen.

Back at the 2009 draft, Murray was eager to swing a deal that would allow him to select Nazem Kadri in the first round. It never happened as the rival Maple Leafs scooped up the London Knights centre at No. 7, leaving Murray and his braintrust to "settle" two selections later on Cowen, the Spokane Chiefs defenceman who was recovering from a pair of knee injuries.

Fast forward to the present: Kadri is plying his trade for the AHL Marlies while Cowen is flourishing on the Senators back end. The 20-year-old Saskatoon native is exceeding all expectations, munching minutes and shutting down opponents with terrific efficiency. He's using his imposing 6-foot-5, 230-pound frame and accompanying wingspan to neutralize attacking forwards, serving notice he has what it takes to develop into a high-impact defender. Heck, Cowen has managed to post a plus-two mark despite playing for a team that has surrendered the most goals in the NHL.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jared Cowen leads all Ottawa blue-liners with four goals.

Cowen's game really elevated when the Sens needed him most. Prior to Filip Kuba's shoulder injury Nov. 19, Cowen was averaging 16:30 of ice time per game. In the first nine games Kuba was out, that number shot up to 25:00 per game, and inched a minute higher when Sergei Gonchar was felled by the same injury.

Cowen, a soft-spoken gentle giant, is maintaining a humble approach. "I am in the right kind of situation whereby you are not given the minutes, but you have to earn it," he said.

He's also earning kudos for his surprising offensive contributions. On Dec. 13 he scored an overtime winner in Buffalo, then capped the week with a four-point effort against Pittsburgh. Cowen leads all Senators defensemen in goals with four.

Coach Paul MacLean has been duly impressed. "As far as our young players are concerned Cowen has been the most consistent," MacLean said.

It shouldn't come as a complete shock; Cowen has leadership pedigree. He was captain in Spokane and an assistant captain for the 2010 Canadian World Junior Championship entry. He also was a key contributor to AHL Binghamton's Calder Cup triumph last season.

Speaking of the AHL, Kadri has eight goals in 22 games for the Baby Leafs this season before getting called up to the big club on Wednesday. Who knows, maybe one day he will find his way, like Cowen has.

Bulls reach five-year extension with Rose

Derrick Rose was going down the list, thanking just about everyone who helped him become one of the NBA's best players, when he looked to his right.

Seated off to the side was his mother, Brenda.

"I think I can finally say this now. Mom, I finally made it," he said.

Rose, the Chicago Bulls' superstar point guard and the league's reigning MVP, agreed Wednesday to a five-year contract extension worth more than $94 million US that kicks in next season.

It's fair to say Rose made it long before this latest news conference. The extension is just another stop in a rapid and steady rise from a tough neighbourhood on Chicago's south side to a starring role with his hometown team after being taken with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

He's gone from the NBA's top rookie to all-star to MVP in just three seasons, becoming the youngest player to win the award. That's why the extension was more a formality than a surprise.

The only thing missing from his resume is a championship and that's something he hopes to change in his fourth season.

"He embodies all the characteristics that you look for," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It's a lot more than the talent.

"The talent is the obvious part. Then, when you look at his will to win, basketball IQ, unselfishness, his humility — I think those are the things that you can build a championship-calibre team around."

The Bulls came close to winning it all last year, leading the league with 62 victories during the regular season and advancing to the Eastern Conference final before losing to Miami.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Senators preview

Florida at Ottawa
7 p.m.
TV: SNET

The Senators (16-14-4) welcome Florida (18-10-6), which has allowed just two goals in each of its last three games due to the strong play of Jose Theodore. Theodore was pulled Dec. 11 in New Jersey after he allowed six goals on 22 shots, marking the only time he has been pulled this season. It was also the Panthers' last road game. Brian Campbell is second among defencemen in league scoring with 26 points, five behind Ottawa rearguard Erik Karlsson's 31. Kris Versteeg leads Florida with 35 points and has seven in his last seven games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Boston	32	22	9	0	1	111	63	45	12-6-0-1	10-3-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
d-Philadelphia	32	20	8	2	2	112	94	44	8-5-1-1	12-3-1-1	7-2-0-1	L2
d-Florida	34	18	10	2	4	91	86	42	8-3-1-4	10-7-1-0	5-3-1-1	L1
NY Rangers	31	19	8	1	3	91	68	42	8-3-0-2	11-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	34	19	11	2	2	110	90	42	10-4-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-5-0-0	W2
New Jersey	33	18	14	0	1	91	96	37	7-6-0-1	11-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Toronto	33	16	13	2	2	102	108	36	7-5-2-2	9-8-0-0	3-5-2-0	L3
Ottawa	34	16	14	2	2	106	117	36	9-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	W2
Washington	32	17	14	0	1	95	97	35	11-5-0-1	6-9-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Buffalo	33	16	14	2	1	90	98	35	8-9-2-1	8-5-0-0	3-5-2-0	L2
Winnipeg	33	15	13	3	2	91	100	35	11-5-0-1	4-8-3-1	6-3-0-1	L1
Montreal	34	13	14	2	5	87	92	33	5-7-2-4	8-7-0-1	3-4-0-3	L3
Tampa Bay	32	14	16	0	2	87	107	30	8-5-0-0	6-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	W2
NY Islanders	31	11	14	4	2	72	99	28	6-8-3-0	5-6-1-2	5-3-2-1	W2
Carolina	34	10	18	4	2	86	116	26	6-9-0-2	4-9-4-0	2-6-2-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	34	21	9	1	3	113	101	46	11-2-0-3	10-7-1-0	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Minnesota	35	20	10	2	3	85	78	45	10-4-1-2	10-6-1-1	5-3-0-2	L5
d-Dallas	32	19	12	0	1	85	89	39	10-4-0-1	9-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Detroit	32	21	10	1	0	107	71	43	13-2-1-0	8-8-0-0	7-3-0-0	W2
St. Louis	32	19	9	0	4	82	69	42	13-3-0-1	6-6-0-3	7-1-0-2	W1
Vancouver	33	20	11	0	2	110	80	42	9-4-0-1	11-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Nashville	33	17	12	3	1	86	88	38	8-5-2-1	9-7-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
San Jose	30	17	10	2	1	86	74	37	10-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	4-4-1-1	W2
Phoenix	33	17	13	1	2	86	86	37	7-7-1-1	10-6-0-1	4-6-0-0	W1
Los Angeles	33	15	14	2	2	72	81	34	8-9-0-1	7-5-2-1	4-6-0-0	W1
Calgary	34	15	15	2	2	84	95	34	9-5-1-1	6-10-1-1	5-3-1-1	W1
Colorado	34	16	17	1	0	91	102	33	10-9-0-0	6-8-1-0	6-4-0-0	W2
Edmonton	33	14	16	0	3	89	90	31	9-6-0-2	5-10-0-1	2-7-0-1	L4
Anaheim	33	9	19	2	3	78	110	23	7-9-1-0	2-10-1-3	3-6-1-0	L3
Columbus	33	9	20	1	3	80	111	22	6-10-1-1	3-10-0-2	3-6-1-0	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Phoenix at Carolina
Montreal at Chicago
Philadelphia at Dallas
St. Louis at Colorado
Detroit at Vancouver
Tampa Bay at San Jose
Tuesday's results
Calgary 2 Minnesota 1
Ottawa 4 Buffalo 1
N.Y. Islanders 3 Winnipeg 2 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 4 New Jersey 1
Phoenix 2 Florida 1
Pittsburgh 3 Chicago 2
Washington 4 Nashville 1
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

LATE TUESDAY

ISLANDERS 3, JETS 2 (SO)

First Period
1. N.Y. Islanders, Parenteau 5 (Moulson, Tavares) 8:17
2. Winnipeg, Antropov 5 (Oduya) 18:00
Penalties — Okposo NYI, Stuart Wpg (roughing) 3:54.
Second Period
3. N.Y. Islanders, Grabner 10 (Hamonic, MacDonald) 3:53
4. Winnipeg, Ladd 11 (Antropov, Wellwood) 9:46
Penalty — Kane Wpg (goaltender interference) 18:40.
Third Period
No Scoring
Penalty — Oduya Wpg (hooking) 16:01.
Overtime
No Scoring
Penalties — None.
Shootout
N.Y. Islanders win 2-0
Winnipeg (0) — Wheeler, miss; Wellwood, miss; **N.Y. Islanders (2)** — Parenteau, goal; Nielsen, goal.
Shots

N.Y. Islanders	13	9	9	2—33
Winnipeg	8	11	14	5—38

Goal (shots-saved) — N.Y. Islanders: Montoya (19-17), Nabokov (W,2-5-0)(18:40 second, 19-19); Winnipeg: (L,11-11-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Islanders; 0-2; Winnipeg: 0-0.
Referees — Stephen Walkom, Brad Watson.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Don Henderson.
Attendance — 15,004 (15,004) at Winnipeg.

FLAMES 2, WILD 1

First Period
1. Calgary, Glencross 11 (Iginla, Butler) 2:47
2. Minnesota, Bouchard 6 (Spurgeon, Cullen) 6:10
Penalties — Staubitz Minn, Jackman Cal (fighting) 15:24, Palmer Minn (hooking) 17:57.
Second Period
3. Calgary, Iginla 13 (Smith, Jokinen) 6:02
Penalties — Stoner Minn, Kostopoulos Cal (fighting) 2:33, Zidlicky Min (slashing) 3:54.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Sarich Cal (elbowing) 6:22, Jokinen Cal (interference) 17:28, Jokinen Cal (slashing) 19:47.
Shots

Minnesota	13	6	11	30
Calgary	11	13	6	30

Goal — Minnesota: Harding (L,7-3-1); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,15-11-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Minnesota: 0-3; Calgary: 0-2.
Referees — Mike Hasenfratz, Dan O'Halloran.
Linesmen — Lonnie Cameron, Dan Schachte.
Attendance — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Kessel, Tor	19	20	39
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Malkin, Pgh	15	24	39
H.Sedin, Vcr	9	30	39
D.Sedin, Vcr	13	25	38
Stamkos, TB	20	17	37
Hossa, Chi	15	22	37
Spezza, Ott	12	25	37
Toews, Chi	19	17	36
Lupul, Tor	15	21	36
Sharp, Chi	17	18	35
Vanek, Buf	17	18	35
Versteeg, Fla	16	19	35
Selanne, Ana	11	24	35
Pominville, Buf	10	25	35
Eberle, Edm	13	21	34
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	21	34
Backstrom, Wash	12	22	34
Neal, Pgh	19	14	33
Datsyuk, Det	10	23	33
P.Kane, Chi	9	24	33
Weiss, Fla	11	21	32
Karlsson, Ott	3	28	31
Gaborik, NYR	19	11	30
Franzen, Det	14	16	30
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Ra.Whitney, Phx	11	19	30
Kopitar, LA	10	20	30
Hartnell, Pha	16	13	29
Vrbata, Phx	16	13	29
Perry, Ana	14	15	29
Seguin, Bos	14	15	29
Elias, NJ	13	16	29
O.Jokinen, Cal	11	17	28
Benn, Dal	8	20	28
M.Koivu, Minn	8	20	28
Smyth, Edm	12	15	27
Eriksson, Dal	11	16	27
Parise, NJ	11	16	27
Jagr, Pha	10	17	27
Iginla, Cal	13	13	26
B.Richards, NYR	12	14	26
Filppula, Det	10	16	26
Tavares, NYI	10	16	26
Plekanec, Mtl	7	19	26
Prospal, Clb	7	19	26
Thornton, SJ	6	20	26
Campbell, Fla	3	23	26
Michalek, Ott	19	6	25
E.Kane, Wpg	15	10	25
Moulson, NYI	15	10	25
Pavelski, SJ	13	12	25
Pacioretty, Mtl	11	14	25
Kovalchuk, NJ	10	15	25
Briere, Pha	9	16	25
Henrique, NJ	8	17	25
S.Weber, Nash	8	17	25
P.Bergeron, Bos	6	19	25
Getzlaf, Ana	6	19	25
Peverley, Bos	6	19	25
Parenteau, NYI	5	20	25

Not including last night's games

HOCKEY

2012 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

All Times Eastern

EXHBITION SCHEDULE

Last night's results
At Calgary
Slovakia vs. Finland
At Camrose, Alta.
U.S. vs. Switzerland
Tuesday's results
At Red Deer, Alta.
Russia 6 U.S. 3
At Okotoks, Alta.
Czech Republic 7 Latvia 1
At Olds, Alta.
Sweden 8 Denmark 0
Tonight's games
At Red Deer, Alta.
Canada vs. Switzerland, 9 p.m.
At Brooks, Alta.
Latvia vs. Denmark, 9 p.m.
At Lethbridge, Alta.
Russia vs. Czech Republic, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Sweden, 9:30 p.m.
At Three Hills, Alta.
U.S. vs. Slovakia, 9 p.m.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Monday, Dec. 26
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Finland, 3:30 p.m.
U.S. vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Sweden vs. Latvia, 5:30 p.m.
Russia vs. Switzerland, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27
At Edmonton
Denmark vs. Czech Republic, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Latvia vs. Slovakia, 10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28
At Edmonton
Finland vs. U.S., 3:30 p.m.
Czech Republic vs. **Canada**, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Switzerland vs. Sweden, 5:30 p.m.
Slovakia vs. Russia, 10 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Russia vs. Latvia, 10 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA BOWL GLANCE

All Times Eastern
(subject to change)
Last night's result
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego
Texas Christian (10-2) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-4)
Tuesday's result
BEEF 'O'BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall 20 FIU 10
Tonight's game
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Boise State (11-1) vs. Arizona State (6-6), 8 p.m.
Saturday's game
HAWAII BOWL
At Honolulu
Nevada (7-5) vs. Southern Mississippi (11-2), 8 p.m.

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	17	14	2	1	53	15	44
Man United	17	13	3	1	42	14	42
Tottenham	15	11	1	3	31	18	34
Chelsea	16	10	2	4	34	19	32
Arsenal	17	10	2	5	33	25	32
Liverpool	17	8	6	3	20	13	30
Newcastle	17	7	6	4	23	22	27
Stoke	17	7	3	7	18	28	24
Norwich	17	5	6	6	27	31	21
West Brom	17	6	3	8	19	26	21
Everton	16	6	2	8	17	19	20
Aston Villa	17	4	7	6	19	23	19
Fulham	17	4	6	7	18	23	18
Swansea	17	4	6	7	16	21	18
Sunderland	17	4	5	8	21	21	17
QPR	17	4	4	9	17	31	16
Wolverhampton	17	4	3	10	19	32	15
Wigan	17	3	5	9	15	30	14
Bolton	17	4	0	13	22	39	12
Blackburn	17	2	4	11	24	38	10

Yesterday's results
Aston Villa 1 Arsenal 2
Everton 1 Swansea 0
Fulham 0 Manchester United 5
Manchester City 3 Stoke 0
Newcastle 2 West Bromwich Albion 3
Queens Park Rangers 2 Sunderland 3
Wigan 0 Liverpool 0

ITALY

SERIE A

Yesterday's results
Udinese 0 Juventus 0
Atalanta 4 Cesena 1
Bologna 0 Roma 2
Inter Milan 4 Lecce 1
Lazio 0 Chievo Verona 0
Napoli 6 Genoa 1
Novara 2 Palermo 2
Parma 3 Catania 3

NBA

PRE-SEASON

Last night's results
Miami at Orlando
Toronto at Boston
New Jersey at New York
Memphis at New Orleans
Minnesota at Milwaukee
Houston at San Antonio
Portland at Utah
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Philadelphia 101 Washington 94
Detroit 90 Cleveland 89
Chicago 93 Indiana 85
Oklahoma City 87 Dallas 83
Denver 127 Phoenix 110
Sacramento 95 Golden State 91
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

REGULAR SEASON

Sunday's games
Boston at New York, Noon
Miami at Dallas, 2:30 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Lakers, 5 p.m.
Orlando at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NFL

WEEK 16

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	437	2
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	3
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	2
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	3

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
y-Houston	10	4	0	.714	343	2
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	2
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	207	2
Indianapolis	1	13	0	.071	211	3

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	334	2
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	285	2
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	2
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	2

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	3
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	3
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	358	3
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	3

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	2
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	3
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	3
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	3

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
x-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	3
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	2
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	3
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	4

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	2
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	3
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	2
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	4

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	
y-San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	327	1
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	2
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	3
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	3

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Tonight's game
All Times Eastern
Houston at Indianapolis, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's games
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Sunday's game
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Atlanta at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

Will Hay strike gold a second time?

Coach brings same energy, drive to Canada's junior hockey squad that he did in leading team to title in 1995

Asked to describe his coach in three words, Brendan Gallagher almost makes it.

"Competitive, knowledgeable, competitive," says Gallagher, then continues.

"He wants to win more than any other coach."

There is certainly a tirelessness about Don Hay, who coaches Gallagher on both the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants and the Canadian junior men's hockey hockey team.

During practice, Hay moves quickly, covers a lot of ice and continually bangs his stick on the ice. He reacts to his players' successes or failures during drills with a gesture or a grimace.

Seventeen years after coaching Canada to gold at the 1995 World Junior Championship in Red Deer, Alta., Hay is stepping behind Canada's bench again with the 2012 edition of the team.

Canada opens the World Junior Championship Sunday in Edmonton versus Finland.

Hay can join Brent Sutter, Craig Hartsburg and Terry Simpson as the only men to coach Canada to gold twice.

Those men did it in back-to-back years. The long interval between Hay's stints is by his own choosing.

A successful junior coach with three Memorial Cup titles, as well as some NHL coaching experience, Hay would have been a leading candidate for the job in recent years if he'd thrown his hat into the ring.

But Hay chose 2012, when the tournament returns to Alberta and the scene of his success in '95.

"Being in Canada first and foremost, I feel comfortable coaching in Canada and in a North American rink," Hay said.

"I still have a passion to coach and I really desired to coach Canada again. I thought it was the right opportunity. I'm not getting any younger."

He may not be, but Hay is a fit 57-year-old. He's an avid runner who enters the Vancouver half-marathon every year. Hay has also not tired of challenging teenage hockey players to become better.

"He loves to see improvements in his players and that I think, along with his conditioning, is why he always seems like he has energy," says Ryan Huska, who is both Hay's assistant coach on the Canadian team and a former player of Hay's on the Kamloops Blazers.

"He really does love teaching kids and young players," Huska continued. "He likes to get them to progress and challenges them to move on to the next level and that's what drives him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Don Hay looks up ice as he runs his team through drills in practice on Wednesday.

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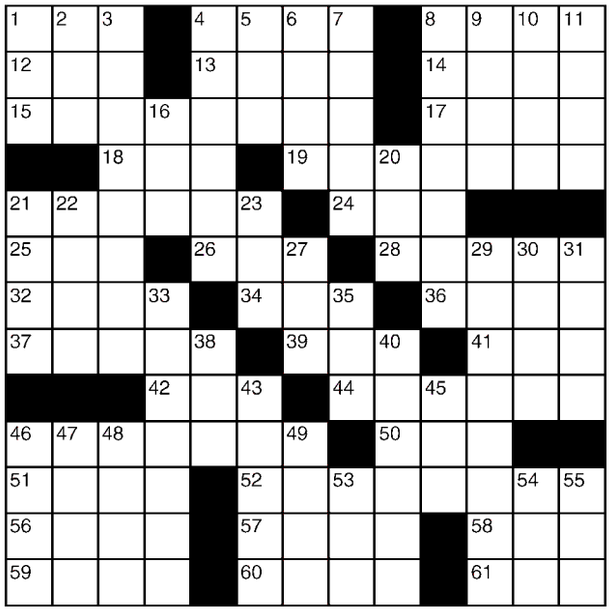
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spiritual

A Prayer About Colour and Race
Dear Lord, We are all Your people, Your children and we are made in Your image and likeness and we are black or brown, yellow or white. Why don't we live in Your image and likeness? We are the colours that blend into the rainbow of life with the colours of the mountains and the hills, the rivers and the sea and all beautiful things. Why then do we smudge and spoil the archway of life's rainbow by hating and fighting and speaking ill of each other? Why can't we keep God's rainbow perfect in unity, friendship and love for only then will we find the promise that a rainbow brings, the promise of eternal life.
Dear Lord,
help us to live in unity and peace and to love one another
- Rosa George

Crossword



Across

1 "Humbug!"
4 Actress Jessica
8 "Pow!"
12 Census statistic
13 Sense
14 Mosque VIP
15 Ball-carrier's target
17 Donate
18 Twosome
19 Beaten down
21 Coarse
24 Definite article
25 Blackbird
26 Gratuity
28 Ballroom dance
32 Baseball team
34 Popular pet
36 Praise highly
37 Trusty horse
39 Young 34-Across
41 Bar supply
42 Caustic solution
44 Recipient's reply
46 Modulate the voice
50 PussyCat's partner
51 Sandwich shop
52 Indispensable aid
56 Plumbing problem
57 Bedouin
58 Neither mate
59 Shaving gel brand
60 Head (Fr.)
61 Ram's fan?

Down

1 Suitcase
2 Earlier
3 Banner
4 Showing buoyancy
5 Mainlander's memento
6 Crooked
7 Watchful
8 "Who cares?"
9 In the thick of
10 Church section
11 Feds
16 Schlep
20 Resistance measure
21 Moving fleet
22 Condominium, e.g.
23 Disencumber
27 Burst
29 Suburban Philadelphia area
30 Dollar
31 Rhyming tributes
33 Thin and slippery
35 Eviscerate
38 Coloring agent
40 "Friends" role
43 Brilliance
45 Puncturing tool
46 Between jobs
47 Require
48 Old Glory
49 Grow weary
53 Adipose tissue
54 Promptly
55 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	A	D		F	A	N	S		H	A	M	S
A	V	A		A	B	I	T		O	G	R	E
N	E	T		C	A	L	A	B	O	O	S	E
G	R	A	N	T			G	O	T			
			A	I	D	A		P	E	R	S	E
B	U	R	N	O	O	S	E		R	E	E	D
I	R	E		N	O	T	R	E		D	A	G
A	G	A	R		M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E
S	E	P	I	A		R	E	G	S			
			O	W	N			H	O	W	D	Y
F	O	O	T	L	O	O	S	E		R	O	E
C	O	V	E		A	R	I	A		A	L	L
C	H	A	R		H	E	R	D		P	E	P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	3		6		7		9	
		9				6		
	4		5		9		8	
	1	8				7	2	
7								9
	5	2				4	6	
	9		4		1		7	
		1				2		
	7		2		8		3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
2	4	8	7	5	9	1	6	3
9	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
4	8	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	5	4	1	8	7	9	3	2
8	3	7	6	9	2	5	1	4

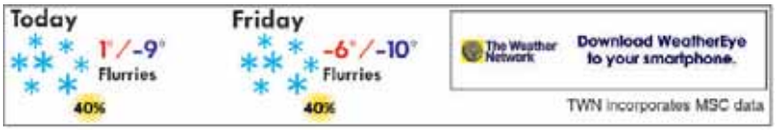
Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Matthew Hart, You have been my best love since the day I met you and it will be until we part. I love you always, **ROSE YOUR WIFE**

Danai, Hello My Love, I miss you SO much when you're out of the country! I'm missing my other half! What can I do without you?! Who can i gossip with? MISS U AND LOVE YOU! **YOUR LOVE**

CP "Fred" Here goes nothing. Feel like I missed out last nite for sure! Just wanted to reach out and kiss you so tempted after seeing you 2 days in a row, shaved face was so Much better.lol We have a past,(18yrs) and way different future. If ever another chance for us please let us try.. My candle is lit at both ends not sure if yours is too. Hope to hear from you, today would be nice! Hope you see this. xo **"FRED"**



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Over the next four weeks, you will get numerous opportunities to better yourself. You must take them.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 As the Sun changes signs, your awareness will deepen and many "problems" will cease to exist.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Tread carefully when dealing with other people's money: The potential for trouble is huge.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are now halfway through your solar year. It's the ideal time to take stock of how far you have come.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You need to do more in some areas but less in others. Make sure you get plenty of rest over the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As the Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, your confidence will soar and you will start to believe that anything is possible.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you feel drawn to a certain person, it is because your fates are connected.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The Sun is moving into the most social area of your chart and you'll be more open than usual. Embrace it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about improving your cash flow situation. Follow your dream. Make it pay.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The Sun enters your birth sign today and a new solar year begins. Think big, act big and expect big.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stick up for yourself today but don't say too much. Sometimes you are too sensitive to criticism.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The problem you are confronted with has a simple solution. Stop making things difficult. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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Meet Brenda.

Brenda is an assistant in the creative department. She was born in California and moved to Texas, where she worked at a company retail store. She now lives in Downtown LA with a cat named Chicken, and is known around the office for baking award winning cheesecakes. She is wearing the Crepe De Chine Sleeveless Button-Up and The Disco Short.

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